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COMFORT

THE KEY TO A MILLION AND A QUARTER HOMES

NEW YORK

AUGUSTA, MAINE.

BOSTON

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MAY						
SUN.	MON.	TUES.	WED.	THURS.	FRI.	SAT.
3 F. G. 8	4 F. H. 14	1	2	3	4	5
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PRIZE STORIES.

The following conditions govern the awarding of cash prizes for Nutshell Stories, and the manuscripts of such writers only as have complied with all these requirements will receive consideration.

All the necessary particulars being here clearly set forth, it will be useless for anyone to seek further information or personal favors by addressing the editor, as such letters cannot be answered.

1. Only persons who are regular paid up yearly subscribers to "Comfort" and who send with every manuscript at least two yearly subscribers (together with 50 cents to pay for each subscriber's copy) may compete for the prizes.

2. All contributions must have the number of words they contain plainly noted thereon in addition to the writer's full name and address with nom de plume if desired; must be written on one side of the paper only, enclosed in the same envelope as the letter and remittance for new subscriptions, and addressed to EDITOR NUTSHELL STORY CLUB care of COMFORT, AUGUSTA, MAINE.

3. All stories must be strictly original with the contributors, and must not have appeared in print before. Competitors may write upon any subject, whether based upon fact, fancy or fiction—of adventure, love, war, peace; of city or country life, or of experiences on land or sea—but no story must contain more than 2,000 or less than 1,000 words.

4. NO MANUSCRIPT WILL BE RETURNED UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES AND CONTRIBUTORS SHOULD THEREFORE RETAIN A COPY OF WHAT THEY SEND.

5. From \$5 to \$20 will be paid for stories, and remittances will be sent by check as soon as awards have been made. No premiums will be given for subscriptions sent in under this Short Story Prize Offer.

The Publishers of "Comfort" reserve the right to purchase at their established rates any stories submitted under the foregoing offer, which failed to secure a prize.

6. Writers who hear nothing of their manuscript may at the end of 90 days after submitting them to "Comfort" feel at liberty to offer their stories for sale elsewhere.

PRIZE WINNERS FOR MAY.

Geo. H. Smith, First Prize.
Everett McNeil, Second Prize.
Anna B. Patten, Third Prize.
F. E. Burnham, Fourth Prize.
Burton McPhail, Fifth Prize.

The Kaffir Runner's Message.

A STORY OF THE SIEGE OF KIMBERLEY.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY GEORGE H. SMITH.

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ROAR of a great gun mounted on a hill far out beyond the line of defences about Kimberley was followed by a mass of dirt thrown into the air within the city limits. A young woman and a British officer who stood at an upper window of a house in the city watched the cloud of dust which marked the spot where the shot had struck.

"Doesn't that make you wish you had gone to the Cape when you could, Alice?" the man asked.

"No," said the woman. "I stayed because I wanted to; and I am glad I did."

"For one thing," she added, slipping one hand inside the officer's arm, "you are here. Then, too, I really can do good here. If you do not believe that, just come to the hospital and see for yourself."

"I know," said the man. "I thought only of myself. It was selfish of me, perhaps; but no man could like to have the first year of his married life ended with his wife a target for the shots of a besieging enemy."

"I am no more a target than you are, Edward; really not so much, since so much of your time must be spent in the forts."

"That means you must go, now, I suppose," she said a moment later, as a bugle sounded in the street outside the house.

"No," said the officer. "I do not go on duty regularly, for two hours yet. Something is the matter. It may be another assault. God grant not, now, for the men are too weak to meet it properly. I must go out and see what it is. Don't stay here, Alice," he said. "It is too dangerous. Do go down into the bomb-proof in the garden."

"I can't bear it there, it is so dark and stuffy," the woman replied; but she followed the officer from the room.

At the door of the house they heard the bugle call nearer, sounding like a solo sung above the bass of the besieging guns. An officer, coming down the street, saluted and said, "Captain Adney, my orders are to see that all the women and children are sent down into the mines. A shell has penetrated a bomb-proof off Victoria street, killed all but two of the persons sheltered there. The shafts of the mine have been opened by the Company, and women and children are already being lowered to the third level."

"But the hospital!" the woman exclaimed.

"The orders are to leave the hospital for the present, although a portion of one of the buildings there has been destroyed this morning."

Mrs. Adney pointed to the nurse's badge upon her arm, and the man bowed. "Are there any other women in this house?" he

asked.
"No."

The man raised his hand to his hat and passed on, to pound with the butt of a revolver upon the door of the next house on the street.

Captain Adney and his wife walked towards Headquarters. At each cross street they met women and children hurrying towards the diamond mines. The third level was two hundred feet below the surface, and would furnish perfect protection. There were several shafts going down to it, and even if all of these should be disabled one extremity of the level opened upon the great central excavation of the mines, so that there would be no danger that the refugees would be penned up in the bowels of the earth.

The sound of the exhaust of a steam engine rising sharp and regular above all the other noises showed that the machinery at the mouth of the mine had been started and that the descent had begun.

The officer and his wife followed the sound of the engine until they came to the open space into which some of the mine shafts opened. While they stood there watching the strange scene before them a man hurried past them, and going to the mouth of a shaft to which entrance was made only by a ladder, climbed down into the hole and disappeared.

"Dr. LeClos does not speak to us," said Captain Adney, with a little laugh. "What do you suppose is the reason?"

"Don't, Edward," said his wife, her cheeks growing red in spite of herself. "What is he going there for?" she asked, a moment later, and then added with a touch of scorn in her voice, "Perhaps he is seeking shelter with the women and children."

"You are harder on him than I am," her husband said, with the complaisance which a man can feel towards a defeated rival whose love his wife has rejected for his own. "You know he is the Company's chief engineer. That is the shaft which leads to the first level. Possibly he has been sent down to see if that also will be suitable for a retreat. I don't think it will, though. It is much nearer to the surface, and extends in a more dangerous direction, quite under our line of defences, in fact."

"I must go, now," he added. "I hate to leave you to go to the hospital. I wish you were down there, safe with the others."

"You don't mean that, Edward," said the woman, standing erect and looking her husband bravely in the eyes. "You would not have your wife less brave than yourself."

"No," said Captain Adney, after a moment. "I would not. Good-by!" and then, after he had kissed her, "You have your pistol?"

"Yes."

"Good-by, then!"

"Good-by!"

That afternoon a wounded Kaffir runner was brought into the ward in the hospital in which Mrs. Adney was working.

"The General sent him," the men who bore the stretcher explained, when the surgeon in charge asked why they brought a Kaffir to that crowded institution. "He has frequently carried government messages."

"He will die," the surgeon said, turning the man's face so that he could look at it. "Put him there," pointing to an empty bed.

An hour later the runner was dead. Mrs. Adney, raising the dead man's hands to fold them upon his breast, found one hand tightly clenched on something held within it. Opening the stiffening fingers she took out a folded paper and a rough stone which a year's residence in Kimberley had educated her to recognize at once as an uncut diamond of great value. Ordinarily she would have sent the paper unopened to the surgeon in charge, but the presence of the diamond excited her curiosity so that she unfolded the paper. She read, written in Dutch:

"The increased fire is having effect. There is more confusion here, and more men are being kept on the defences. At exactly five o'clock to-day I will fire the charge in the first level of the mine. The charge is placed directly under the line of forts on the east side of the town. Have your forces massed opposite that point, ready to storm the breach which will be made. L. C."

The Kaffir runner was a traitor, bought with the gem!

"L. C." There was no doubt who had written the message. LeClos was a traitor, too; doubly so, because he was one of the few men who were trusted to have access to the mine. The instinctive aversion which she had had for the man even when he had been an earnest suitor for her love had not been ungrounded, then. He meant to destroy part of the mine, and by doing so open the city to the enemy.

One traitor was dead, before his message could be delivered. There would be no hostile force gathered ready to spring through the break in the line of defences. The other man lived, though, and might yet do his part of the horrible contract.

Good God! "The east side of the town!" It was there that her husband's command was stationed; and he was on duty now. She tore a watch from the breast of her nurse's gown. The hands marked ten minutes before five o'clock.

A sentinel guarding a lane which led into the open place in which the entrances to the diamond mines were located, halted a woman running towards him.

"Don't stop me!" she cried. "I must pass! I am Mrs. Adney. I am a nurse;" and pointed to the badge upon her sleeve.

The man lowered his musket slowly, uncertain, and the woman sprang past him before the weapon had reached the ground. The point of the bayonet caught in her gown and tore it, but she gave no heed.

As she ran across the first few rods of open space her eyes and mind seemed conscious of everything. Over there on the other side of the square were the shafts of the third level. The machinery was still, now, because all of the refugees were safe below. The constant rumble of great guns, and occasionally a crash nearer at hand showed what danger those who had fled the town had escaped. Over there, toward the hills from which the sound of the firing came, were the east side forts, the British flag waving over them. Her husband was there. Nearer to her than anything else was the opening which led to the first mine level.

Even while the woman ran, a man came from the engine house and walked swiftly to the opening into the mine. Grasping the ladder with both hands he stepped upon it and started to descend. A moment later the lower half of his body had disappeared in the earth.

For an instant the woman could see nothing, her head swam so, except a blur of red and blue over where the flag floated against the hills. Then everything was clear again, and she had raised her pistol, aimed at the man in the mouth of the mine, and fired.

It was late that night before Captain Adney, hanging over the bed on which his wife lay, saw her eyes open to a sense of consciousness. Even then hours passed before she was strong enough to tell him how she came to be found fainting in the public square, and then, shuddering in his arms, to tell him what she had done.

Dr. LeClos was found at the foot of the shallow mine shaft, not dead, but shot through one arm, and with a leg broken by his fall. A pocket battery and an electric connection with the charge at the end of the level showed what he had meant to do. When Kimberley was relieved he was one of the prisoners turned over to the British forces.

Weeks afterwards, when life in the city had returned to its normal conditions, there were invitations issued to a unique function to be held at the home of a high official of the diamond company. Between applauding lines of men and women Captain Adney led his wife to where, at the head of the long room, there stood beside the official a gray haired English general whose name is known around the world.

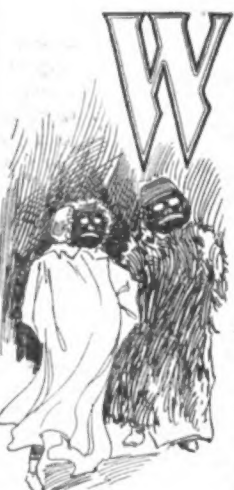
Perhaps the men present—army men, at least—would have cared most for the words which the general spoke; but the women who were there thought less of what they heard than of what they saw, for when the officer had finished speaking and Mrs. Adney bowed her head before him, he dropped around her neck a heavy gold chain from which hung, cut, now, and gleaming superbly, the great diamond which she had taken from the dead Kaffir runner's hand.

A UNIQUE DEFENSE.

A Tale of Pioneer Days in Kentucky.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY EVERETT MCNEIL.

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WHEN I was a young boy I went on a visit with mother to her old home in Kentucky. Grandfather's comfortable farm house of solid stone masonry stood on the very spot where his father, shortly after the close of the Revolutionary War, had built his humble pioneer's log cabin and begun his battle for life and competency with nature and the Indians. The moment I entered the quaint old parlor my eyes eagerly sought the broad mantel above the wide fireplace. "Mother, there it is!" I shouted; and running to the mantel I climbed upon a chair and stared with all my eyes at what to me was the most interesting object in all the great universe, a grotesquely shrunken and wrinkled pumpkin jack-o'-lantern, enclosed in a large bell jar.

Mother and the others laughed at my boyish excitement; but grandfather placed a wrinkled, toil-worn hand upon my shoulder, and said: "Henry, that withered bit of pumpkin tells the story of the dangers and hardships we,

who rescued this beautiful country from the wild beasts and yet wilder Indians, endured that you might enjoy the blessings of its beauty and fertility. Never forget what you owe to the strong men and women who laid the foundations of your country's greatness."

My grandfather was a tall, stern old man, who, in his young manhood had fought Indians and killed bears and panthers and deer not a mile from where we were now standing; and now, to be thus particularly noticed by this grand old hero, made my heart bound and somehow gave me courage to inquire:

"Please, grandfather, won't you tell me the story of the pumpkins and Thundercloud and how you saved the old home from the Indians when a boy no bigger than I?" I had heard mother tell the story often, but I wanted it from grandfather's own lips. For a minute or more the old man was silent, then he began:

"Henry, when I was a boy of your age, a rough log cabin stood where this house stands, and the surrounding hills and valleys were covered with a heavy growth of timber, the home of deer and bears and panthers and Indians. Our only neighbor lived three miles away and the nearest town was Dodd's Settlement, some fifteen miles up the river.

"Now, as to that pumpkin story, it happened like this: That fall we had a big crop of corn and pumpkins and, after the corn had all been husked and the pumpkins gathered and placed in the cellar, father determined to take a load of corn to Dodd's Settlement and sell or exchange it for provisions and other needed household supplies. Mother wished to go too; and it was decided to leave your Great-Aunt Eliza and me at home alone. I was then thirteen years old, but tall and strong for my age, and Eliza was twelve. We did not fear being left alone. In fact, we rather enjoyed the thought of being our own masters.

"Accordingly, early one bright cool October morning, father yoked up the oxen, and he and mother started on their long ride to Dodd's Settlement. They did not expect to get back until late that night, for fifteen miles and return is a long day's drive for a yoke of oxen.

"After father and mother had gone Eliza and I did what work there was to be done, and then we played.

"Along about three o'clock in the afternoon, when we were beginning to tire of our play, Eliza suddenly exclaimed: 'O, John, I know what we'll do! Let's make a couple of jack lanterns, the most frightful-looking things we can do, and scare papa and mamma when they come home!'

"The idea at once took my fancy; and, going to the cellar, we picked out two of the largest pumpkins we could find, and began carving them into the most hideous and grotesque semblances of the human head that our skill and fancy could evoke. In about an hour the two heads were finished, and their grinning mouths and great eyes did full credit to the skill of our hands, and the vividness of our imaginations. Then I fastened each jack lantern to the end of a long pole, nailed a strip of wood across each pole just below the pumpkins for the shoulders, and the skeletons of our hobgoblins were complete.

"We had great fun dressing up the two



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figures. Around the shoulders of one we hung a long white sheet, and upon its head we fastened mother's great Shaker sunbonnet. This was to be the giantess. The other had a bear skin thrown around its shoulders, the hair of a horse's tail tacked to the back of its head, and a fierce mustache and long chin whiskers made from the beard of corn. For a hat we inverted mother's great wooden butter-bowl. I do not think I ever saw two such frightful-looking things as Eliza and I made, when we hoisted these figures up over our heads in such a manner that our faces and shoulders were concealed by the falling bear skin and the sheet. It almost frightened us to look at each other; and we laughed when we thought of the great scare we would give father and mother on their return.

"By the time we had completed all these preparations the sun was near setting, and I had to go to the pasture after the cows. We stood the two figures, with everything ready for lighting up, in a corner of the house, and I started after the cows while Eliza busied herself getting supper.

"I had begun to let down the bars when I heard the clatter of horse's hoofs behind me, and a man on a great foam-covered black horse dashed up. 'Thundercloud and his Indians are murdering the Whites! Tell your father to fly instantly to the Settlement!' the man shouted, dug his spurs into his horse's flanks, and was gone, before I had recovered from my surprise and horror sufficiently to utter a word.

"For a moment I stood still and trembled. No one knew better than I what an Indian outbreak meant. Four years before I had seen the mutilated remains of an entire family that had been massacred by the Indians, and the horror of the sight still lived in my memory. I thought of the absence of father and mother, of the fast gathering darkness, of Eliza alone in the house with no one to protect her but me, and of my own helplessness. Then I dropped the bar I still held in my hand with a bang, and started for the house. As I ran I saw a ruddy glow lighting up the eastern skies, and I knew that the Indians were burning our neighbor's house only three miles away. When I came near to the house I heard Eliza singing and the rattle of the supper dishes as she placed them on the table; and the sound cut my heart like a knife. 'Indians!' I shouted, as I sprang through the doorway, and, banging the door shut, shot the strong bolts into place and let fall the great bar of hickory across the middle of the door.

"Once safe within the house and a loaded rifle in my hands my courage began to come back; and, in low trembling voices, Eliza and I planned how we would defend our lives and our home. We both understood the hopelessness of our defense, unless rescue came suddenly; and yet I do not think a thought of surrendering without a struggle entered the head of either of us. There were stern children bred in those days. We had two rifles and Eliza could shoot nearly as well as I, and we hoped to keep the Indians back for a short time; and then, if help did not come, we would have done our best. Eliza took up her station at the loopholes in the back part of the house, and I watched for the Indians at the front and the sides. We had no light in the room, save a dull fire that smoldered in the fireplace.

"An hour or more passed. It was now dark, and the silence of the wilderness was all around us. We could just distinguish the trunks of the trees in the surrounding forest. One of the trees appeared to move, then another. 'Quick, Eliza, come quick! Here they are!' I whispered. In a moment Eliza was peering through a loophole by my side. One, two, three—a couple of dozen or more shadowy forms stole from out the darkness of the woods and stood in a group on the edge of the forest looking in our direction. Mechanically I touched the powder horn by my side. Its lightness startled me. I pulled out the stopper and turned the horn bottom side up. It was empty! We had no powder. Father had taken the last few loads we had with him. The two charges in our rifles were our only defense.

"'Eliza,' I whispered, 'we are lost. There is no powder, only the charges in our guns.' For answer she put her arms around my neck and kissed me.

"The Indians were now creeping toward the house. Twelve of them came two and two, bearing a heavy log between them with which to beat down the door. I glanced quickly around the room to see if there was anything we could place against it to give it greater strength. As I did so my eyes caught sight of the two jack lanterns, standing like hideous giants in the corner of the room.

"'Quick, Eliza!' I almost shouted. 'The jack lanterns! They are our only hope. We'll make the Indians think the cabin is inhabited by a couple of fire devils.' In a moment the lanterns were in our hands and our trembling fingers had lighted the candles. We hoisted the hideous figures up over our heads. In the dim light of the room the effect was frightful, terrible. To furnish a voice for the monsters I seized an old tin horn that hung on the wall, and was capable of making a noise like the bellowings of a dozen angry bulls.

"We did not have long to wait. For a

THE FEMALE CRUSOE.

HOW SHE IS RESCUED FROM A SAD AND SOLITARY LIFE.

The prominent feature of the life of Defoe's hero, Robinson Crusoe, was its loneliness, its utter solitude. He was cut off from all contact with his fellows, condemned to live in a friendless solitude, unbroken by the sound of human speech or human laughter. It isn't distance and desert islands that make Crusoes. It is the solitariness of a life cut off from active participation in home duties and social pleasures; and it is this condition which makes the name Crusoe the fittest term to express the isolation and loneliness of many a woman's life.

A woman condemned to this foreign existence is like some soaring song bird, which, broken-winged by fate's cruel shaft, has henceforth to creep through life hugging the dull,



cold earth when it should be soaring to the sun and singing at Heaven's gates. In how many a home the wife creeps about like a wounded bird. She used to be so full of merriment. The song on her lips told her whereabouts as she flitted, bird like, from chamber to chamber, caring for the home nest. Now she rarely smiles. She never sings. She has dropped out of society, given up her church work, and become almost as much of a recluse as if she were the solitary tenant of some far-off island.

THE WORK OF RESCUE.

It is a fact that tens of thousands of women are cut off from a full share in life's duties and pleasures by diseases peculiar to their sex. But over against that fact is to be set the other fact that thousands of such women are being rescued from their miserable condition and reinstated in the full enjoyment of all of life's duties and privileges by the use of Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription.

Women do not sufficiently realize that the general health depends upon the local health of the delicate womanly organs. They "doctor" for nervousness, headache, backache, and all sorts of aches, and entirely neglect the root of the trouble—female weakness, inflammation, ulceration, or some enfeebling drain. The common expression of women made well by the use of "Favorite Prescription" is: "It made a new woman of me," and this expression does not exaggerate the great results that follow the cure of feminine disorders by the use of "Favorite Prescription."

"I took your medicine six months and now I feel like a new person," writes Miss Anne Stephens, of Belleville, Wood Co., W. Va. "Have no backache, no headache, no pain anywhere. I took seven bottles of Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription and seven bottles of his 'Golden Medical Discovery.' I can't speak highly enough of your medicine, for it has done me so much good. I don't feel tired as I used to, nor sick. I feel well and think there is no medicine equal to Doctor Pierce's Favorite Prescription."

HOW IT FEELS TO BE A NEW WOMAN.

"No backache, no headache, no pain anywhere." Can any other words better summarize the results of a perfect cure? It will pay every woman not only to read these testimonials to the wonderful curative power of "Favorite Prescription," but to study them closely, and read between the lines the story of happiness which follows emancipation from the bondage of disease.

"I was a great sufferer two years ago with female trouble and I wrote to you for advice," says Mrs. Mattie Hays, of Tribulation, McDonald Co., Missouri. "You outlined a course of treatment for me. I followed your directions, and now feel like a different person. I never expected to hear from you when I wrote to you. In three days after I commenced taking your medicines I began to feel better. I took twenty dollars' worth of the 'Favorite Prescription' and 'Golden Medical Discovery.' I bought it five dollars' worth at a time, and also four vials of Dr. Pierce's Pellets. I would not take one thousand dollars for the good the medicine has done me. I can't praise it enough. I wish all who suffer with such troubles would give Dr. Pierce's medicines a fair trial. I can work all day—doing anything, walk where I please, and feel good. Many thanks to you for your kind advice."

Doctor Pierce's Favorite Prescription makes weak women strong, sick women well. It does this by curing the causes of womanly weakness

and sickness. It acts as a perfect regulator of the periods. It dries the drains which undermine the strength. It heals the inflamed and ulcerated organs and cures female weakness. It strengthens the entire nervous system by its nerve-nourishing ingredients, restores the appetite and brings refreshing sleep. It prepares the wife for motherhood, gives her robust health, and makes the baby's advent practically painless. It increases the nutritive secretions so that the mother is able to nurse and nourish her child with comfort and content.

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There is no similar offer of free consultation by letter which has behind it so great an institution as the Invalids' Hotel and Surgical Institute, to which Dr. Pierce is chief consulting physician and surgeon, assisted by a staff of nearly a score of eminent specialists.

For this reason this offer of free consultation by letter should not be confounded with those offers of "free medical advice," put out by men or women who are not physicians, and therefore utterly unqualified to treat disease. True, they can give free advice on medicine, as they could give it on questions of law or any other subject. But the advice is worthless, coming from persons ignorant of the principles and practice of medicine. An undertaker could give "medical advice," but it would be as an undertaker, not as a doctor. A great deal of so-called "free medical advice" is as suspicious as an undertaker's would be. If you write for medical advice to man or woman be sure first of all that you are writing to a doctor, trained by experience and licensed by law to practice the profession of healing.

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minute all was silent without. Then we heard the rush of light footfalls; and the next instant the heavy log struck the door with the force of a battering ram, and knocked it flying off its hinges. With a blood-curdling war whoop the Indians rushed in through the breach, to be confronted by what appeared to their startled eyes like two hideous demons, shooting fire from nose and eyes and ears and with great fiery red mouths yawning to devour them. For one awful moment the braves stood stock-still, staring at us. I took a step toward them and blew a terrific blast on the horn. This was more than they could stand; and, with howls of fright, they tumbled through the shattered doorway, and darted away toward the forest. Eliza and I ran after them for a few rods, yelling and blowing the horn for all we were worth. When the last Indian had vanished in the woods, we returned inside the cabin and, throwing our arms around each other, shouted and danced and cried and laughed like two children gone mad.

"Something like an hour afterward father and a number of armed men rode up, expecting to find us murdered or carried off by the Indians; but we were safe.

"That," concluded grandfather, "is the way your great-aunt Eliza and I frightened off Thundercloud and his Indians with a couple of pumpkin jack lanterns and saved our lives and our home; and there, in that bell jar, is the very jack lantern I used."

WITH FEET OF CLAY.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY ANNA B. PATTEN.

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MINISTER'S wife was dead. There were whispered conversations on the street corner and interchanges of regret on the front stoop when the news had spread through the village, while the door-knocker of the parsonage had resounded to sympathetic calls.

No mark of respect was denied the departed. On the day of the funeral, all of the parishioners gathered in the stuffy front-room, where the tired

little woman lay quiet, at last, with her toll-worn hands folded on her breast. A brother clergyman had come from ten miles back, to utter eulogistic remarks over the deceased; the church choir rendered its choicest selections, and the procession was the longest that had ever wended its way over the hill to the country cemetery.

Yet, perhaps, there were few women present who sincerely mourned for this weary worker in the vineyard, for the unmarried contingent of the community had decided, long ago, that their brainy pastor was unequally yoked in marriage. With his rare mental endowments he had risen step by step, leaving his wife on the lower plane of intellectual standing. Every spinster member of the congregation who listened to the eloquent outbursts from the pulpit, openly expressed her regret that such a man should be tied for life to one so lamentably his inferior. Each one of these devoted followers of his words considered herself as the person, who under favoring circumstances would have been a fitting helpmeet, as well as more congenial companion, in the sacred labor of saving the human race.

So, now that the leader of the flock was at last free from bondage, it could not be truthfully said that those personally interested regretted the loss. To be sure, a few had a little twinge of conscience, on recalling a severe illness, when the minister's wife had come to their bedside with her soothing presence, for in times of sorrow she had never failed to appear with her soft touch and gentle accents.

Of course, these things were commendable in their place—quite necessary, in fact—but the position of a minister's wife required other qualities, such as a dignified presence and mental superiority, in which the past incumbent had been sorely lacking.

This truly onerous position had suddenly been made vacant, through Providential intervention, and from the moment that the startling news had been sown broadcast, it became a secret query in several anxious minds as to who would be selected to fill the vacancy, after a proper season of mourning had passed by. The pastor, seemingly unconscious of this undercurrent of feeling, continued his accustomed duties regardless of these rival aspirants to his favor. He assumed a very becoming air of grief which appeared to be inconsolable, but there is nothing, perhaps, so pregnable as a pastor's heart.

This representative of the persuasion was not proof against assault in the shape of feminine flattery, for he had a good share of masculine vanity. Besides, his present housekeeper was extravagant, the children were getting unruly; so within a year, he selected Miss Serena Spear to share his fortunes, for better or worse, and occupy the seat of state in the pastor's pew, thus making one lady supremely happy and six others correspondingly miserable.

Mrs. Serena entered upon her duties with subdued enthusiasm, resolved to show the whole community what a model minister's wife should be. In the bliss of the honeymoon, under the exaltation of her hard-earned victory, this seemed easy of accomplishment; but after that stage of illusion had worn away, she found several stumbling blocks in her path. The feats of the first wife had a way of rising up out of the past and facing her. She came to the conclusion that that little woman's strength must have been herculean to accomplish the amount of work she did in one day. No wonder she dropped by the wayside.

A dignified presence and mental superiority might be very graceful attributes abroad, but they counted for little in sewing on children's buttons and repairing the family wardrobe; in answering sick calls, settling disputes, and the thousand and one trifles that made up the sum of her daily existence.

Worst of all, she found that hourly contact with an idol is apt to dull the ardor of first enchantment. Not that her husband had deteriorated intellectually, for his sermons were brilliant masterpieces still, but somehow she had not expected to find petty characteristics in such a superior being. Then, all her attempts to bring herself into harmony with his

line of work met with such a surprising setback. If she suggested sitting in the study while he was composing his next Sunday's sermon, or shyly asked to be permitted to look at the rough draft before revision, he seemed to regard it in the light of interference and implied by his answer that she was only required to have supervision over the domestic part of the establishment.

If she started some weighty discussion, or sought to ascertain his views as to some public question of the day, he confined himself to mere generalities and all hope of being a co-worker in his literary labors seemed impossible of accomplishment. This evasion and lack of confidence was a sore trial to her pride, but after continued repulses she drifted into the place he had allotted her, that of a domestic nonentity. From this humble ground she still looked upward, trying to blind her eyes to certain weaknesses, incompatible with true nobility of character, and keep her idol on the pedestal where she had placed it; but some phases of private life could not be passed over without serious consideration, and one day the veil of the temple was rent asunder and the glaring light of revelation cast within the shrine.

That morning she had been rumaging in the attic, clearing out the rubbish which had accumulated from year to year. She came across several barrels filled with musty, yellow-stained sermons, standing in the corner. Her husband could hardly have any need of these antiquated thoughts with his plentiful storehouse of brains to draw upon. Without any further consideration of the subject, she delivered them over to the teamster for disposal as waste paper and went on with her housewifely process of sifting the wheat from the chaff.

That evening she was sitting by the centre table, sorting the basket of weekly stockings. Her husband had just left her and gone to his study. This was the night when he selected the theme for the next Sabbath discourse and she had learned her lesson by this time, and left him undisturbed to his task.

Very soon she heard his steps returning hastily across the entryway, and he appeared on the threshold, looking strangely flushed and agitated.

"Who has been in the attic, disturbing my sermons?"

"Sermons, dear? Oh, yes, I let Humphrey take them away. They smelt so musty I didn't think it healthy to have them around the house."

She stopped suddenly, for her husband had sunk into the nearest chair and was staring at her in a helpless, confused way.

"You cannot mean that you want them—Leo—those old sermons—that you—need—them!"

He did not answer. He did not seem to hear her; but there was a look in his eyes as if he were face to face with his real self, at last, and she turned away, sickened by the sight.

Six months later the Reverend J. Leonard Fairbanks sent in his resignation. Interest in the popular pastor had seemed to subside after his second marriage. Whether from combined resentment at the slight thereby inflicted upon others, or because of his rapid decline in rhetorical effort and brilliant composition, it is not safe to say. His people had been fed on such rich fare in the past that they rebelled, perhaps, at the tame, spiritless essays, suddenly served out to them. As a consequence, that gentleman found the atmosphere so uncomfortable that a swift severing of his connection with the church seemed to be the only alternative.

The sewing-circle met that afternoon, and as the pastor's wife had decided from motives of delicacy not to appear, there was ample opportunity for discussion of the important news.

"Well, that's the whole gist of the matter," said Mrs. Humphrey Weeks, when the subject had been considered from every point of view. "Mis Fairbanks, she give my husband them barrels to cart away, along with a heap of other things. I just thought I'd look 'em over to see if there was anything worth saving, an' there was lots of other truck sides the sermons. Why it seems the parson's first wife pretty nigh supported the family on what she made, scribbling for the papers and magazines. Just to think that meek little woman writ all them beautiful sermons—edicated at a college, too—!"

"Serena couldn't do that," said a young girl, picking up the stitches she had lost while listening to the story. She had been a close second in the race for the prize. "But then," magnanimously, "she would do it, if she could. Serena's too proud. She'd wash floors first, for a living."

"I guess it'll come to that in the end," the last speaker snapped her thread vindictively. She had not even stood a chance of success with the disenthroned idol. "He'll never get another call, that's sure; and a flock of step-children to support, besides one of her own. Well, she made her bed, and she must lie on it!"

TOM HAWLEY'S GREAT LEAP.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY F. E. BURNHAM.

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JOSEPHINE LaCroix had picked Tom Hawley up somewhere on her travels; cared for him when he was unable to care for himself, and now was teaching him somewhat of the art that had made her famous—was showing Tom how to perform on the trapeze, walk the tight-rope and do a score of other remarkable feats with which she had astonished the world.

Tom was sixteen years of age, though he looked all of twenty. Madame LaCroix was proud of him, and well she might

be, for a more manly and handsome young man is seldom seen. She talked her plans over with him and asked his advice as though he were her senior, rather than twenty years younger than she.

There was one person who traveled with the circus of whom Josephine was afraid; feared lest in a moment of jealousy and anger he would commit some act of violence which would imperil her life. Jean DeBarre was his name, an acrobat who had made her life miserable in many ways since her first connection with the circus.

Tom was well aware of the facts of the case and kept his eyes open when Josephine performed, confident that at such a time was she in greatest danger at his hands.

Tom had progressed so well under Josephine's instruction that they had performed jointly and shared tremendous applause. Josephine, shot out of a cannon, would catch a trapeze at the top of the tent, and leaping through the air, would catch Tom's hands, and from there turn a triple somersault to a trapeze far below, from there reaching the top of the tent by a series of wonderful maneuvers, performing more and more daring feats as the show progressed.

Among other things Josephine danced on the tight-rope, discarding the customary lifeline, perfectly at ease while dancing on that slender rope fifty feet above the ring.

Jean DeBarre muttered something under his breath as Josephine passed him one evening on her way to the ring from the dressing-tent; his words and looks frightened her, and she spoke to Tom as they passed into the great tent.

"Keep a sharp watch to-night," said she as she parted from the young man, "Jean has been drinking and is ugly. Don't forget, Tom."

Merrily the circus progressed. Josephine and Tom had gone through with several performances, delighting the people. Twice had Josephine found opportunity to speak with Tom and each time had she said something about DeBarre and her fear of bodily harm. Tom had tried to laugh it off, thinking to dispel the thought from her mind, though he had misgivings himself.

Josephine was standing on the tight-rope, waving her hands to the people, her back to Tom. Tom, some thirty feet above her, watched her graceful movements from time to time as opportunity offered, for he was striving to acquire some of her marvelous grace.

Suddenly he became aware of another who was watching her with intentness, one who was not of the people below. On the other side of the tent where the dressing-tent was pitched a dark, sullen face was outlined against the white canvas. The face was the face of DeBarre.

Suddenly a knife flashed, its gleaming blade reflecting the arc lights of the circus, flashing almost like a diamond.

Tom saw that flash of light; saw the vindictive face of DeBarre outlined on the white canvas and devined his purpose. He saw Josephine on the rope beneath him waving her hands to the mass of humanity.

In the merest fraction of a second he had gathered himself for a leap—the leap of his life. The vast throng saw the change that had come over him. Scarcely had they noted his quivering form when he shot from the trapeze like an arrow from a drawn bow.

A startled cry issued from a hundred throats as they saw him flying toward Josephine, Josephine with her back to him, unconscious of his flight from the trapeze above.

The knife in the hands of DeBarre flashed again as Tom shot past Josephine; flashed and severed the rope that supported the woman.

As Tom passed, his right arm encircled Josephine's waist and together they sped downward toward the trapeze twenty-five feet below. Even as the woman's feet left the rope it dropped to the ring.

Josephine, conscious of her peril, knew that their lives depended upon her own assistance and submitting, permitted herself to be borne onward with no resistance.

As one body the people rose to their feet as the two swept downward.

"They'll miss it," shouted one man.

"He has done it," shouted another.

Sure enough. Like lightning Tom's left hand shot out, reaching high above his head, seizing the bar of the trapeze as they flew by. Instantly Josephine followed the movement herself, Tom loosing his hold, she drawing herself upon the bar, Tom attempting to do so himself, but failing.

Josephine looked down and saw Tom's left arm hanging helpless by his side. Seizing his right arm, with which he had laid hold of the bar the instant his other arm snapped, she drew him up by her side, where they stood bowing to the people, though they felt little like doing so under the circumstances.

Quickly a rope was brought, and in less time than it takes to tell it the two were safely in the ring, retreating toward the dressing-tent.

Meanwhile swift justice had been meted out to the villain who had sought Josephine's life. Standing there high above the ground, partially hidden by the great folds of the tent, he had failed to note that the rope on which he was standing, likewise secured Josephine's tight-rope. The instant he drew his keen knife across the tight-rope his own foothold was lost. Downward he plunged, striking on a pile of boards, breathing his last before Josephine and Tom reached the dressing-tent.

Somewhere to-day Tom is performing, no doubt, making marvelous leaps from trapeze to trapeze, but it is doubtful if he ever has, or ever will perform as he did that night when he saved Josephine's life.

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AGENTS: DANIEL TASSO, MICHAEL ANGELO RAPHAEL

A BURGLAR PRO TEM.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY BURTON MCPHAIL.

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JOHN BALDWIN, a detective in the employ of a detective agency of Boston, was resting one afternoon at his home on Longwood Avenue, when his doorbell rang; answering the summons he admitted a middle-aged gentleman. A stranger, courtly in his bearing, evidently a man of the world.

GUSTAV LEUTCHMANN, Berlin, Germany. VOCAL TEACHER.

"I note that you have a room to let," he said, handing the detective the above card; "I desire to engage

one in a private family where I can rest for a few weeks from the annoyance and bustle of a hotel."

The detective was favorably impressed by the stranger and readily showed him to the one room he wished to rent.

"A beautiful room," said he in dulcet tones, "beautiful; will have my trunks sent up at once."

This was going a trifle faster than the detective had expected. He had not seen his wife as yet, and the letting of the room being her suggestion, as the rent was to be her own, naturally she was the one to be consulted. Before he was aware of it, the detective had accepted the five dollar note which the stranger pressed into his hand. The upper front room was let.

The detective's wife merely saw the man as he descended the front steps, but one glance at his face told her all.

"That man's a rascal," said she, when her husband returned from the hall. "You have been deceived for once, John."

"You are certainly mistaken," said the detective, watching the man as he passed down the street. "He is a gentleman from the soles of his shoes to the crown of his head."

Nevertheless, the detective wondered as he stood there which was right—he or his wife.

That evening the professor returned and they had a good opportunity of studying him. They asked him to spend the evening with them, and a very enjoyable evening was passed. He possessed a fine tenor voice, and seated at the piano he played and sang several selections.

As the evening passed the detective's wife began to look with more favor on their lodger. Gradually that indescribable something that chills the person against whom it is directed, began to disappear, and as he sang her distrust gave place to confidence, and before the professor bade them good-night and retired to his room, he had won her respect and admiration; she stood where the detective had stood six hours previous.

The detective, however, thinking over the incidents of the day and evening, to his surprise, found a slight suspicion, of he knew not what, creeping into his mind, which had not departed when he arose the following morning.

At the rogues' gallery the detective spent a morning looking over the thousands of photographs, wondering if amongst them all was not the professor's likeness. He was going over them for the second time when his eye fell on one which he had passed over the first time; one taken in Germany, the likeness of a noted burglar and bank-robber. Hans Van Rueter, was the name it bore, and the description tallied with the professor's physiognomy, save that Rueter wore a beard, while Leutemann sported merely a moustache.

"A fine tenor voice," read the description. "That's the man," said the detective, "a beard is easily disposed of. Gustav Leutemann is a knave."

Upon arriving home the detective learned from his wife that the professor had had a caller that morning. A crook, presumably, though one whom he could not size up from his wife's description. The following day he met him coming up the steps as he was leaving the house. If a crook, evidently a stranger in that part of the country, for his face was not to be found in the rogues' gallery.

That evening the detective learned that the same man was coming again the next morning, which information his wife had overheard as he parted from his friend, the professor.

Concealed in a closet adjoining the professor's room, the detective gleaned from the snatches of conversation which he overheard that the two men had planned to plunder his residence.

"Very well," said the detective to his wife, "very well, if they will loot my home, I shall assist professor Leutemann in doing so. There is not another man in the city so familiar with the location of our valuables as myself."

The Professor and his pal had planned to do the job the following night. The detective prepared to do his work at the same time. How well he succeeded will be shown later.

The professor's friend wore a heavy black moustache, and glasses partially concealed his eyes. That afternoon the detective selected from his stock of disguises a false moustache that closely resembled Leutemann's pal's. An overcoat similar to his he had not, but he planned something better than a substitute; he decided to wear the very overcoat worn by the man whom he was about to impersonate.

Two shrewd detectives guarded the approaches to Detective Baldwin's residence, with orders to arrest Leutemann's pal as soon as he put in an appearance that night.

Detective Baldwin impatiently passed the evening at the station waiting the arrival of the detectives with their prisoner. A little after one in the morning they arrived. In less than three minutes Detective Baldwin was on his way, clad in the arrested man's overcoat,

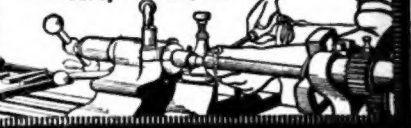
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wearing his hat and glasses, and his "make up" completed by the false moustache.

Twice the detective passed his home, watching for the appearance of the professor. Presently the front door opened softly and the professor beckoned to the detective.

"Take off your shoes," he whispered in his ear, as the detective tiptoed up the steps.

He obeyed. Noiselessly he followed him into the house and waited for the professor's next move.

It was evident that Leutemann had explored the house prior to that night, for he led the way with no hesitation straight to the sideboard where the silverware stood.

There is a strange fascination about robbing one's own house, and the detective entered into the plot with interest.

"Baldwin hasn't been out to-night," said Leutemann, "if he's been asleep all the evening we must take special care not to waken him."

The detective assented. As yet Detective Baldwin had done nothing in the way of plundering, and Leutemann suggested that he ransack the bedroom.

Rapidly was the ludicrous side of the situation growing upon the detective, and when he entered his wife's room and found her stifling a laugh in the bed-clothes, he nearly gave all away by laughing aloud.

With no opposition and absolutely no danger of being disturbed, naturally, he easily secured his watch, several pieces of jewelry and joined Leutemann in the dining-room.

Highly did he compliment the detective for his cleverness in thus securing so much of value without disturbing the owner.

Quickly the two left the house, and without a carriage was awaiting the professor's appearance. As the detective stepped into the vehicle he glanced sharply at the driver's cap and learned his number.

Through this street and that of the city the carriage whirled and finally stopped before an old building in a low quarter of the city.

Without question the detective followed the professor's lead, climbing a rickety flight of stairs to a dingy room.

As the professor stooped to light a lamp the detective slipped his hand into his own hip-pocket.

"This has been a clever piece of work," said Leutemann, turning to the detective.

"I think so, Herr Rueter," responded the detective, quietly.

With ashen face Leutemann, or rather, Rueter, turned to his companion. He found himself peering into the barrel of a forty-four calibre revolver.

Half an hour later he was behind the bars. To-day he is serving a ten years' sentence in state's prison.

The cabman, whom it was evident had had his "eye teeth cut," received a six months' term in the penitentiary.

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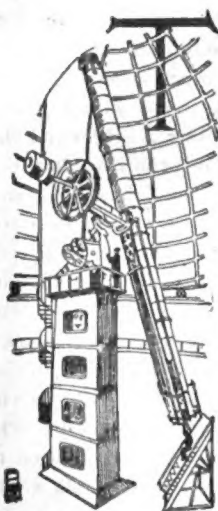
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THE SUN'S ECLIPSE IN 1900.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



TELESCOPE OBSERVATORY.

THE fact that the eclipse of the sun which is to take place May 28th is to be total and the finest ever witnessed in America is calling much attention to the subject of eclipses. Without entering into deep scientific explanations or confusing theories, it is the purpose of COMFORT in this article to give a few interesting facts about this and other eclipses of the sun which will enable the readers to witness this phenomenon of nature with a clear understanding of what it all means.

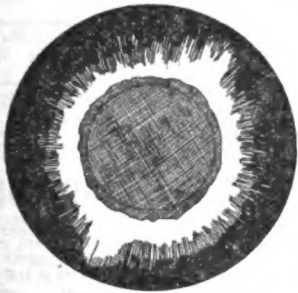
Historically speaking eclipses have had considerable share in events in many lands. In the days of ignorance and superstition eclipses were considered as evidences of the wrath of the gods and caused widespread terror.

Tradition often ascribed connection between eclipses and events of national importance. This is particularly true in the Latin and Greek classics, as for instance, Plutarch declares that an eclipse attended the birth of Romulus (the founder of Rome) and Xenophon describes the capture of the Median city of Larissa by the Persians because the gods brought an eclipse of the sun to terrify the citizens.

Gradually increasing knowledge of the heavens allowed astronomers to predict eclipses, and the terror they formerly inspired has gradually given way excepting in ignorant and superstitious minds where such phenomena are still ascribed to supernatural causes. An English Ambassador to China tells of an eclipse which kept the Emperor and his mandarins for a whole day devoutly praying to their gods that the Moon might not be eaten up by the great dragon which was hovering around her. The next day a pantomime was performed showing the battle between the Moon and the dragon in which three hundred priests, bearing lanterns on long sticks, danced and capered around, in the house and about the grounds.

In 1868 there was a complete eclipse of the sun in India and but very few individuals among the teeming millions who viewed it did not believe the dragon Rahn was endeavoring to swallow up the Lord of Day. The pious Hindu while the eclipse is coming on, takes a torch, and begins searching his house, carefully removing all cooked food and drinking water; because, by the eclipse, such food and water become "unclean." A writer from Fort Sill telling of the eclipse of 1878 said: "It was the grandest sight I ever saw, but it frightened the Indians badly. Some threw themselves upon their knees and invoked Divine blessing; others flung themselves prostrate, face downward, others cried and yelled in frantic excitement and terror. Finally, one old fellow stepped from the door of his lodge, pistol in hand, and fixing his eyes on the darkened Sun, mumbled a few unintelligible words and raising his arm took direct aim at the luminary and fired the pistol. This happened at the moment of total obscurity and a moment after the sun peeped forth." It was unanimously voted by the Indians that the timely discharge of the firearm alone saved the orb from total extinction. Thousands of similar cases of the action of the primitive mind might be related, but these will suffice.

The obscuration of the sun, commonly known as an eclipse, is, as is generally understood, due to the presence of the moon directly between the earth and the sun. The surface of the moon, relatively speaking, is so much smaller than the sun, that, notwithstanding its comparative nearness to the earth, the shadow does not completely cover the sun at any time and casts only a very narrow shadow. Even at time of total obscurity a bright light called the corona will encircle the shadow, varying in brightness and size. The longest possible total obscurity would happen at the equator and be of eight minutes duration. The longest time the sun will be hidden in the coming eclipse will be about two minutes.



A CORONA OF THE SUN.

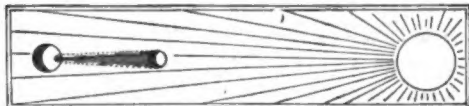
The eclipse of May 28th will be the first observable in the United States since 1889. The moon's shadow will touch the earth somewhere out in the Pacific ocean and travel eastward in a somewhat unusual path. Sweeping along at a rate of one thousand miles an hour, it will reach land on the west coast of Mexico, crossing that country in a north-easterly direction and arriving at New Orleans with a total obscuration at half-past seven A. M. The total disappearance there will be one minute and seventeen seconds. From there it passes in a straight line to Norfolk, Va., passing through Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia,

the Carolinas and the southwestern end of Virginia. A strip of about fifty-four miles wide will be in total darkness for over a minute. From here it passes in the same direction into the Atlantic until it reaches the coast of Portugal at 3.30 P. M. and thence across northern Africa into the Red Sea.

The most elaborate preparations for scientific observation have been made at great cost in all parts of the world; but the fact that an amateur photographer, Mrs. Maunder, the wife of an English astronomer, who accompanied her husband to India to witness the eclipse of 1898, took the finest photograph of an eclipse ever known, has stimulated thousands of amateurs to similar effort. In her very successful attempt she used a Dallmeyer stigmatic lens of one and one-half inches aperture and nine inches focal length. If the sky be clear undoubtedly splendid pictures will result.

At Tripoli, Africa, there is fifty per cent. less likelihood of cloud than at any other point, and that will be the Mecca of observers. Telegraphs and cipher code will enable them to know every official observation from the first point in Mexico at sunrise until its disappearance between five and six in the afternoon near the Indian ocean.

Many elaborate stations will be erected and our sketch shows a model amateur outfit. The initial out shows official observations in a large observatory. Note the operator repeating by



RELATIVE POSITION OF EARTH, SUN AND MOON.

telegraph the calls of the observer looking through the glass. But any of our readers may obtain a clear view of the passing of the shadow by smoking a piece of ordinary window glass over a candle flame and looking through it at the sun.

QUEEN VICTORIA AT CHURCH.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



ON the 24th of May, 1900, Queen Victoria, if she lives, will be eighty-one years old. Through all these years, or at least since her childhood, the Queen has been a regular attendant at church, no matter at which of the royal residences she may have had to live. Although

most of the palaces have magnificent royal chapels connected with them, Her Majesty is quite as apt to be found worshipping at the humble parish church. When at Balmoral Castle, in Scotland, her favorite residence, the Queen attends Crathie Church, the regular Presbyterian house of worship of the village, although she is regularly, of course, a communicant of the Church of England. When she is at Balmoral it is said that the tourists who flock to church to get a glimpse of royalty at its devotions make a nuisance of themselves to the regular attendants. No doubt many of these people do go to the church actuated more by curiosity than by devotion, and it is quite likely they stare about them more than could be called

polite. One visitor, who perhaps may not have seen herself as others saw her, wrote of her impressions as follows: "The Queen did look so cross. I had been trying to get a glimpse of her, when all at once my brother nudged me and said, 'Now you can see.' I looked up, and the Queen saw me, and looked so cross." An English writer commenting on this story says: "Poor Queen! She is of course quite different from all other people, and likes to be impudently stared at from the beginning to the end of the service in church where she attends worship. It is most extraordinary that educated persons who would angrily resent being persistently watched and stared at themselves, cannot see that such conduct on their part is likely to be just as offensive to other people."

The communion Sunday at Crathie Church, Balmoral, has been described by the Queen in her Journal of November, 1871. She was then present for the first time at a communion service in a Presbyterian church. "It would be impossible," she writes, "to say how deeply we were impressed by the grand simplicity of the service. It was all so truly earnest, and no description can do justice to the perfect devotion of the whole assemblage. It was most touching, and I longed much to join in it. To see all these simple good people in their nice plain dresses, so many of whom I knew, and some of whom had walked far, old as they were, in the deep snow, was very touching. Since 1873," Her Majesty adds in a note, "I have regularly partaken of the communion at Balmoral every autumn."

The first time the Queen went to Crathie Church a fine dog followed the clergyman up the pulpit steps and lay against the door of the pulpit while his master was preaching. In consequence of the remonstrance of the minister in attendance at Balmoral at the time, when next Sunday came around the clergyman came to Crathie Church without his dog. Dining at Balmoral a few days later he was surprised to have his royal hostess demand the reason for the dog's absence. He explained that he had been told that the dog annoyed her Majesty. "Not at all," promptly said the

Queen. "I wish everybody behaved as well at church as does your noble dog."

At Windsor Castle there are two royal chapels. St. George's Chapel, the older, is a magnificent specimen of the florid Gothic architecture. It contains the stalls of the Knights of the Garter, and here their installation takes place. At the east end of the chapel is the royal vault in which are buried George III and his Queen, George IV, the Princess Charlotte, the Duke of Kent, the Duke of York, William IV and his Queen, and several other royalties. Prince Albert of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha, the Queen's husband, is not buried there, however, but in a magnificent building erected by the Queen to his memory and called the Royal Tomb House, or Albert Memorial Chapel. This building is only sixty-eight feet in length, but is designed with almost indescribable richness. At the entrance to the chapel is the cenotaph, made of black and gold Tuscan marble, bearing a sculptured effigy of the prince, carved from pure white Carrara marble. The figure is represented as dressed in the armor of a fourteenth century knight, and wearing the order of the Garter.

The body of the deceased prince is not buried in the chapel, but in a mausoleum erected for it on the left hand side of the Long Walk, at a short distance from the Castle. In another mausoleum near lies the body of the Duchess of Kent, the Queen's mother. This magnificent tomb of the Prince Consort, which was erected at the sole expense of the Queen, cost one million of dollars.

When they are at Osborne House, in the Isle of Wight, the Queen and Court worship at Whippingham Church. This church was rebuilt but a short time before the death of the Prince Consort, who took an active interest in the restoration of the edifice. He is commemorated there by a handsome monument to him erected by the Queen in the chancel of the church. The Princess Beatrice was married to Prince Henry of Battenburg in Whippingham Church, in 1885. This is said to be the first instance on record of the daughter of a sovereign being married in a parish church.

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Men, Women and Things.

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Alma-Tadema is a name familiar alike to the art critic and to the people at large. His wonderful pictures of life in Egypt and Rome with the beautiful classic figures of women, the intense blue sky and the wonderful brilliancy of light playing over white marble, remains forever in the memory as a distinctive acquisition. They have probably been reproduced oftener in prints, photographs and engravings than the work of any other living artist. Sir Lawrence Alma-Tadema has a beautiful home in London which shows at every turn an artist's thought. Alma-Tadema is about sixty years of age, but in that lifetime he has painted more than three hundred important pictures. The celebrated artist is Dutch by birth although his title comes from the knighthood bestowed upon him by Victoria in 1879. He is the son of a notary. His father died when Tadema was a child of four and the care for his education fell upon his mother. She had a wholesome distrust of art and artists and tried to train her son to be a lawyer. The boy's instincts were all towards art and every moment he was out of school was spent with a pencil or brush in his hand. The constant effort injured his health but at the age of thirteen a portrait of his sister was exhibited as his work. Thinking that the boy would not live his mother consented to allow him to devote all his time to art. He studied at the Antwerp Academy and later under the distinguished Belgian artist, Hendrik Leys. With congenial work came vigorous health and the sometime invalid became the greatest worker. All of his early work has been destroyed by the critical artist. His first successful picture depicted life in Egypt. It was called "Life in Egypt Three Thousand Years Ago." His mother lived to see him attain local fame. He married a French lady but on her death in 1869 he came to London where he has ever since made his home. He married an English wife, became an English citizen and so closely identified himself with the life of his adopted country that many people forget that he is not a native Englishman. His first contribution to the Royal Academy was a picture painted in Antwerp and entitled the Pyrrhic Dance. His first picture painted in England was "A Roman Emperor." Alma-Tadema is a diligent worker but from two to three years are spent upon each picture. He keeps two or three canvases going at once and among these there is generally a portrait. His portraits are as characteristic as his other work for he never paints the conventional portrait of a head but surrounds his portraits with familiar objects so that the setting of life is given to the semblance of life. He is necessarily a thorough historical student and is often consulted regarding the setting of plays that show the life of Rome or Egypt. His house contains a beautiful marble gallery leading to a studio. A stairway of burnished brass and windows of onyx are among the interesting features of a house that is like no other in the world. Among its ornaments is a beautiful piano inlaid with gold, mother of pearl and semi-precious stones while inside the lid on a vellum lining are the names of famous pianists who have used the instrument. Americans have been the largest purchasers of Alma-Tadema's work. The careful attention to detail shows the Dutch school, but the peculiar brilliancy of their beauty appeals to every lover of beauty while the artistic perfection wins the plaudits of critics. Success both artistic and financial has crowned Sir Alma-Tadema's life.

Miss Maud Gonne has just left America and sailed for Paris, where she will speak for the cause of Irish liberty and for the Boers. Miss Gonne is thirty-two years old but her name is known the world over for her eloquent protests against England's treatment of Ireland. Miss Gonne spent her childhood in Dublin where many scenes of the misery of the people were indelibly impressed upon her. For seven

years she lived in France and then she returned to Ireland. She became identified with the Nationalist party and devoted her life to the task of freeing the political prisoners and of solving the problem of her people. This was her second lecture tour in America. Miss Gonne is a very beautiful young woman, with a gentle voice and manner. She wears a low cut velvet gown when she lectures and seems to have stepped out of some old canvas. She has the intense earnestness and thorough belief in her ideals that carries conviction to her listeners. She is very far from the manner of the average platform speaker, but is illogical, sympathetic and womanly. It is her real love for the people of whom she speaks that wins her the co-operation and assistance of her audiences. Her beauty, her ability and her charm are powerful factors in her success, but above and beyond all is her absolute belief in the right of the cause. She has established a paper in Paris known as Ireland Libre.



The historical novel seems to be literary "winner" of the day. The greatest successes from the financial and popular side have been won in this field. Without doubt, the dominant figure in the field of historical romance is that of Paul Leicester Ford. His claims to serious attention as a historian are not without good foundation. He is a young man but his entire life has been spent in the atmosphere of historical study. His father owned one of the largest private libraries in the country in the line of American history. Ford has had the historical training that comes from the study of documents and sources of history. His life of Washington presents the hero from the familiar standpoint of daily life. All the little details that help to a personal view of the Father of his country are given. Again in his book "The Many Sided Franklin" Ford gives us much that is fresh and entertaining. His first successful novel, "The Honorable Peter Stirling" was generally understood to be a sketch of Grover Cleveland's life. The Story of an Untold Love was in quite a different vein. It is Ford's last book. Janice Meredith, that has met with the most favorable reception from the critics. It is the direct result of his work both as a historian and a novelist. The leading scenes are laid in New Jersey and it might almost be called a novel of New Jersey. The characters seem real flesh and blood and many people feel that this is the long expected great American novel. Paul Leicester Ford is a native of Brooklyn. The stately old home where he passed his boyhood stands on Clark Street but it has passed into other hands. If Paul Leicester Ford had done no other work than that in Janice Meredith he would be entitled to a leading place in the literary ranks.

Miss Elizabeth Jordan is the new editor of "Harper's Bazar." The entire re-organization of the Harper business has given this very important position to a very young woman. Miss Jordan had however "arrived" before this last mark of success was placed upon her. She came to New York from Milwaukee, Wisconsin, about ten years ago and at once obtained a position upon the "World." Her merit made her one of the best-known newspaper women in New York. She wrote a collection of short stories "Tales of the City Room" that won recognition for her literary ability as well as for her newspaper instinct. She has force, tact, discrimination, literary ability and great executive force. Her friends believe she will make all these qualities tell for success in her new position.

Anna Elizabeth Klumpke, an American girl, is the heiress of the world celebrated artist, Rosa Bonheur. The story of the friendship of these two women of alien race but of kindred taste and talent is one of the strange romances of real life. Miss Klumpke is a San Francisco girl and belongs to a talented family. One of her sisters is Miss Dorothy Klumpke, the well known astronomer.



It is now a little more than ten years since Miss Klumpke exhibited in the Paris salon a portrait of her mother. The picture with its benign face and silvery hair attracted the attention of Rosa Bonheur and she sought the acquaintance of the young artist. Miss Klumpke has lived in Boston since leaving San Francisco, but for the past few years her home has been in Paris. It was while on a visit to America that she received an invitation to paint the portrait of the great artist. The acquaintance that grew up through this means ripened into such love and devotion on both sides that the great French artist made the young American heiress to her fortune of nearly \$60,000, her chateau at Fontainebleau and all her paintings. Miss Klumpke announced at once that she would give half the proceeds of the sale of the pictures to Rosa Bonheur's brother and nieces. Miss Klumpke intends to gather together all Rosa Bonheur's work, prepare an exhaustive and critical catalogue, and then have the collection exhibited in France, England and America. A large part of the work has never been exhibited and the collection will be a monument to the genius and industry of the great animal painter. After the collection has been exhibited the different canvases will be sold. Miss Klumpke has given \$10,000 of the money to the Society of French Artists to found a Rosa Bonheur prize. The interest will provide for an annual prize of \$300, as the lump sum is the largest prize foundation in the society. The prize is to be awarded by the salon jury to the most meritorious picture of the year without regard to race, age or sex of the artist. Miss Klumpke also intends to repair the chateau at Fontainebleau and make it a Mecca to art pilgrims. In fact the American girl seems to consider the fortune in the light of a trust. She is to write a life of Rosa Bonheur and give the impressions she gained through the intimate comradeship that she enjoyed with her. She feels that the real inner life of Rosa Bonheur was little known or understood and rejoices that her love rendered the great artist's last days less lonely. Miss Klumpke's own art has been at a standstill as her whole strength and energy has been given to her scheme of perpetuating the memory of the great woman artist. Miss Klumpke will not be a wealthy woman when she has perfected her plans of exhibiting the works of her friend, but her name will be indissolubly linked with that of the world's greatest painter of animal life.

Leonora Jackson is a young American girl who is working to attain the fame in her own land that is already hers in Europe. She has fought her way to fame with a violin. No artist of her years can be said to rival her and many believe that she will achieve the greatest fame won by a woman violinist. Miss Jackson has a strong, firm face lighted by eyes whose color seems to change from light blue to black as the emotions of the girl deepen and vary. Her hands seem large and awkward until she grasps the bow of her violin when they become full of nervous force. Miss Jackson is vehemently American. In an interview she said, "I am an American girl. Whatever triumphs I have achieved I rejoice in since through them I have held up the stars and stripes." Miss Jackson was born in Boston but all her childhood life was passed in Chicago. Her mother's family were all musical. Mrs. Jackson herself prior to her marriage studied vocal music in Italy and conducted large singing classes in this country. When Leonora was a baby the sound of a violin seemed to fill her with joy. Before she was six years old the child had her tiny violin and when she was six she had the best teachers to be found in the city. While still a child she was sent to Paris and was placed in the famous conservatory under Professor Desjardins. At this time came the great financial reverses that left the family absolutely penniless. The mother and daughter returned to America. The plan was conceived of giving concerts at seaside resorts during the summer in order to pay the further expenses of Leonora's instruction. For two years this plan was followed. Finally two

wealthy women recognized the phenomenal talent of the young girl and offered to pay the expenses of herself and her mother for four years abroad. Others who had heard the little concerts were anxious to assist and finally a subscription paper containing names and representing six of our largest cities was made up. Money enough was promised for a four years' course at Berlin under Joachim and the purchase of a rare Storioni violin. After her study Miss Jackson made her debut at a grand concert in Berlin where Joachim himself led the orchestra. She was commanded to appear before the Empress. These two triumphs but led to a greater for that same year she won the Mendelssohn prize of fifteen hundred marks. Triumphs followed at Paris, at London and at Geneva. She came to America to fill an engagement for twenty orchestral concerts. The girl who had captured Europe had no need to fear the reception that her own people would give her. She more than satisfied the expectations roused by her European successes. Great as her successes have been the future seems to hold even more for this brilliant, talented young American artist.

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KIPLING'S AMERICAN HOME.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



Not long after Kipling came to London from India he became acquainted with Walcott Balestier, a young man of many rare qualities, whose early death not long after came as a grievous blow to every one who knew him. Kipling soon saw and appreciated the unusual literary talent which Balestier possessed, and the two men became friends. Balestier was the son of an aristocratic New York family, the members of which owned a country home a few miles out of Brattleboro, Vermont. In time the family became so attached to this home that they spent not only their summers there but frequently the whole of the year.

When Kipling first came to America he was invited to visit the Balestier family at their country home. It was mid-winter. One can imagine what an experience that ride from New York to the snow-covered Green Mountains of Vermont must have been to a man of Kipling's artistic temperament, who had lived, as he had, in a country where the fields shone white with heat instead of frost. Sometime afterwards Kipling wrote an account of this journey, putting into it his first impressions of snow, sleighs, frost, and fur-clad men and women as he saw them at the stations at which the train paused. The rapidly falling snow, blotting out every trace of what had preceded it, seemed to have had a fascination for him, and he afterwards wrote one of his most striking stories with this as a theme. In this story he tells of a crime committed in a New England winter and of the escape on snow shoes of the man who had done the wrong, safely, as he thinks, because a fast-falling storm of snow had entirely covered his tracks. But when spring came, and the snow gradually disappeared in the sun, the light upper coat of the last storm melted so as to reveal the big, deep footprints of the fugitive, so that he was detected and brought to punishment.

Eventually Kipling married Miss Balestier, the sister of his London friend, and having bought a hill-side near the Balestier place built a house upon it. This house, built of stone and wood, long, low and with an English homelike look about it, stands where its windows look up and across the Connecticut valley to where, many miles away, the mountains of Vermont and New Hampshire rise unevenly against the sky.

The author named the house "Naulahka," the same word which he had used as the title of one of his most fascinating books. The Naulahka is supposed to be a famous emerald, in India, so large and beautiful that it is the most precious possession of an Indian potentate. The scene of the book opens in Colorado, with the hero and heroine sitting on a bridge, engaged in argument. The young woman, believing that she has a mission to go as a physician to the high caste women of India, rejects the young man's love for this career, and starts eastward, half way around the world. The young man has political ambitions centering in the future of his town in



NAULAHKA.

Colorado. The wife of an all-powerful railroad magnate who has a passion for emeralds, promises to make her husband build the railroad to the young man's town, and thus insure its future and his own, if he will bring her the Naulahka, of which she has heard. He agrees, and starts for India, westward half way around the world. Of course the hero and heroine meet in India, and the rest of the book is occupied with their wonderful adventures there. The book has had a special interest from the fact that when it was printed it was said that young Balestier, who had spent some time in Colorado for his health, had assisted in the writing of the chapters which gave such vivid pictures of Colorado and western life.

Kipling has lived in his Brattleboro home at more or less irregular intervals since the house was built. People in the community who have come to know him well admire him greatly, and appreciate the privilege of his acquaintance. One pleasant story which I have heard of him there I give, although I cannot vouch for its correctness personally. A young man, the son of one of the neighbors, had occasion to go to Kipling's house. Before he went away he asked if he might take a book which had attracted his attention while he had been waiting. Mr. Kipling, surprised, because the book was a technical one, asked the young man why he was interested in it, and learned that he was trying to work his way through college and that the book pertained to a subject which he was studying. In the acquaintance which developed it transpired that one way in which the student was earning money to pay his expenses was by soliciting business as a life insurance agent. Eventually Mr. Kipling allowed him to insure his life for a sum so large that the agent's percent of the premium went a long way towards paying a year's expense at college.

I happened to see Mr. Kipling once, while he was living at Naulahka. One summer a friend and myself drove twenty miles for the sake of seeing the house where the famous writer lived. Just before we came in sight of the house we met Kipling himself, being driven to town. He was in a high English dog cart, driven by a servant in a tall hat and immaculate livery. Kipling himself had on a loose, well-worn sack coat and an old black slouch hat. He was smoking a short brier pipe. Un-

like many famous men his pictures look so much like him that one who sees them may know what he looks like.

I have always been glad that I saw him. Oddly enough I had open on my knees at the time, and had just been reading aloud to my companion, one of Kipling's stories, printed in a current number of a magazine. The beautiful drive across the Connecticut valley, the fascinating story, the sight of the writer himself and then of his home, which we soon drove past, all combine to make one of the pleasantest memories which I look back upon.

CALENDAR SUPERSTITIONS.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



HERE is a very old superstition that on the night before the first of May the witches dance with the devils on the mountains. For protection against these same witches, the country folk gather branches of the white-thorn and hang them in their entries. It is not alone to gather the blossoming hawthorn that the maiden rises early to go a Maying, for there is a belief that the dew that is found on the grass on the first morning of May has a wonderful power to beautify the face that is bathed in it. In some parts of Scotland there is an ancient custom of sending out a man very early on May-day morning to cross the river, before any woman shall have a chance to do so, for this would banish the salmon from the river for a year.

It has always been considered very unlucky to marry in May, but the anxious maiden has, on May-day, her usual opportunity to peer into the future. A syllabus having been made of warm milk, cake and wine, a wedding ring is dropped into it and she who first succeeds in fishing it out with a ladle will be the first to marry.

Another love charm is thus described in Gay's Shepherd's Week:

"Last May-day fair I searched to find a snail,
That might my secret lover's name reveal;
Upon a gooseberry bush a snail I found,
For always snails near sweetest fruits abound.
I seized the vermin; home I quickly sped,
And on the hearth the milk-white embers spread;
Slow crawled the snail, and, if I right can spell,
In the soft ashes marked a curious 'L.'
Oh, may this wondrous omen lucky prove!
For L is found in Lubberkin and Love!"

A ceremony that is performed in Germany on May twenty-fifth, St. Urban's Day, is thus described by an ancient writer: "Upon St. Urban's Day all the vintners and masters of vineyards set a table either in the market-stand or in some other open and public place, and covering it with fine nappery, and strewing upon it green leaves and sweet flowers, do place upon the table the image of that holy bishop, and then if the day be clear and faire, they crown the image with great store of wine; but if the weather prove rugged and rainie, they cast filth, mire and puddle water upon it; persuading themselves that, if that day be faire and calme, their grapes which then begin to flourish, will prove good that year: but if it be stormie and tempestuous, they shall have a bad vintage."

In Rogation Week the young men in certain English parishes used to meet together and proceed with great noise to various orchards where they would form a circle about the trees uttering this incantation:

"Stand fast root; bear well top;
God send you a youling sop!
Every twig apple big,
Every bough apple snow."

If the owner of the orchard did not then ask them to drink at his expense they would pronounce an anathema against him and his trees and go on to a more promising orchard.

There are several interesting superstitions relating to Ascension Day. On that day the country people make crosses on a cheese with a rope's end and this cheese is supposed to afford them protection in times of violent storms. If an egg laid on Ascension Day be hung in the roof of a house it is believed that it will protect the house from injury. On this day, too, the Doge of Venice was wont to wed the Adriatic with a ring, in token of Pope Alexander's permission to the Venetians to exercise authority over the sea as a man does over his wife. But the Adriatic, like a headstrong spouse, was often known to prove refractory.

Congresses at the Exposition.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



naval architecture, Sunday rests, abuse of

OF the most important features of the Paris exposition this year will be the congresses to be held in connection with it, of which over one hundred have been already arranged for. Experts, scientists and authorities from all parts of the world have promised to gather at these congresses, and no pains have been spared to make them interesting and instructive in the highest degree.

Among the topics discussed will be architecture, automobilism, the blind, cheap dwellings, commercial travelers, deaf and dumb, dentistry, drawing, feminine institutions, firemen, hypnotism, life saving, literary and artistic rights,

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tobacco, women's rights and workingmen's associations.

Some of these congresses will last as long as three weeks, while others will finish their business in forty-eight hours. The medical congress will be attended by several thousand doctors who will come from all parts of the world. To receive properly the members of these several gatherings the exposition has provided a magnificent building and sufficient funds to entertain on a magnificent scale. The municipality of Paris has also made arrangements with railways, steamship lines, and other companies in order that they may make concessions and reductions in their charges for the convenience and comfort of these visitors. All the congresses will have the same chief—M. Garier, who occupied the same position in the Paris exposition of 1889. M. Garier is a highly educated man, a chief of civil engineers and a professor of the faculty of medicine.

The building in which the conventions will meet is called, appropriately, Congress Hall. It is located on the bank of the Seine, and is a handsome structure of the Louis XVI style. The lower floor is reserved for social economy exhibits. The first floor is an immense hall, with five meeting rooms for the use of the congresses—one of these will seat eight hundred persons and two of the smaller ones will each seat two hundred and fifty.

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EDITOR'S NOTE. The following rules govern the publication of matter in this department.

Contributors must without exception be regular subscribers to COMFORT, and every contribution must bear the writer's own name and post-office address in full.

Original letters only, which deal with matters of general interest, will be published. They must be as brief, plain and correct as the writers can make them, and may vary in length from one hundred to four hundred words. Only letters of exceptional merit and interest may reach six hundred and fifty words. Contributors must write on one side of the paper only.

\$10 CASH PRIZES \$10.

The following cash prizes will be paid monthly:

1st. For the best original letter	\$3.00
2nd. " " second best original letter	2.50
3rd. " " third " " "	2.00
4th. " " fourth " " "	1.50
5th. " " fifth " " "	1.00

Competitors for these monthly cash prizes must comply with all the above rules, and in addition must bring at least one new Cousin into the COMFORT circle; that is, they must send one new subscriber with each letter, together with 50 cents for a yearly subscription.

These cash prizes will be announced monthly in this department.

No premiums will be given for subscriptions sent in under this Prize Offer.

All communications must be addressed to Aunt Minerva, care of COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

CASH PRIZE WINNERS.

Alice Pierson,	\$3.00
Signora Crawford,	2.50
George Jones,	2.00
Nannie M. Sayer,	1.50
Mrs. F. A. Mitchell,	1.00

"Once more the Heavenly Power
Makes all things new;
And domes the red-plowed hills
With loving blue;
The blackbirds have their wills,
The thrushes too."

DEAR NIECES AND NEPHEWS:

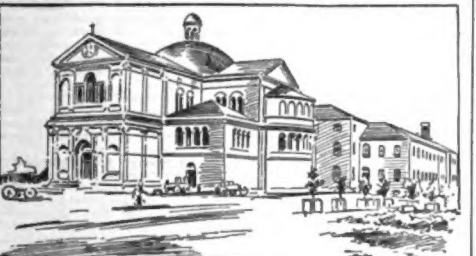
Two hundred and ninety-three years ago this month the first English settlement was made in this fair land. Is it not hard to realize that less than three centuries ago our country was a "howling wilderness," inhabited by wild beasts and savage Indians?

Eighty-one years ago, on the twenty-fourth of this month, the venerable Queen Victoria made her appearance in this world.

And on the first of May we celebrate the second anniversary of Dewey's master-stroke in the Philippine Islands, and still we are fighting there; still Aguinaldo's semi-savage hordes resist the authority of the United States, and the advent of civilization. God grant that another year may see an end to the war, and peaceful prosperity established in those beautiful islands.

Our first letter this month comes from the capital of our beloved country, and tells us of a new Catholic institution lately established there.

"A little to the northeast of Washington, D. C., on a low hill, rise the buildings of the new Roman Catholic monastery and church, called the College of the Holy Land. They were completed less than a year ago by the Franciscan Brothers, and the College has for its object the training of priests for work in the Holy Land, as missionaries and as attendants upon the shrines there. The buildings are all of yellow brick, and the church, which is modelled after the Byzantine church of St. Sophia in Constantinople, rises in the middle to a large rounding dome. On entering we find ourselves in a lofty church, the altar raised far above the floor and reached by a flight of steps on either side. To the right and left of the altar are balconies enclosed by slender colonnades, where the monks attend the services, and one hears their full, melodious voices joining in the responses and sometimes catches a glimpse of them in their rough, brown



CHURCH AND MONASTERY.

gowns, with rope girdles and shaven heads. What is, however, of most interest is the walk through the crypt beneath the church. This has been hollowed out into passages and cave-like grottoes to represent, in exact facsimile, all the chief shrines of the Holy Land, in order, I suppose, that the young priests may become thoroughly acquainted with them before going there to serve as guides. A young, sweet faced monk acted as our conductor and led us down the stairs at the end of one of the transepts to the darkness below. At the foot, he paused and lighted a candle, by which we saw the first shrine, an exact reproduction of the place in Nazareth where the Annunciation took place. Above the altar is a bas relief of the Annunciation, a copy from Luca Della Robbia, and in front, a star indicating the place where the angel stood. Next we are led through a narrow passage to a small imitation cave, the home of Joseph in Nazareth. The passage from here to the next grotto represents the Catacombs of Rome and is so dark that with the help of the guide's candle we can hardly distinguish the semi-circular holes in the whitewashed walls, facsimiles of the graves of the early Christians. The next grotto, that of the Martyrs, is, we are told, to be beautifully decorated, but it is now only a bare niche in the rough white wall. To the right of this is a somewhat larger grotto called the Chapel of the Poor Souls. In the center is what seems a long bier covered with black cloth, while at the end rises an imposing altar of black marble. The whole effect is gloomy and dark. Here the monks come to say mass for departed souls, and here the bodies of the brothers who die will be laid before they are buried. Behind the altar another door leads to the grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes, the original of which is the Mecca of so many pilgrims.

"From here we go back through the Chapel of Poor Souls, through the Catacombs, to the Grotto of Bethlehem. Small hanging lamps are kept burning here night and day. A few steps below the passage the manger is represented, and in it, lying on the straw is a tiny wax babe. Opposite the manger an altar is raised to the Three Wise men. A passage leads from here up to the daylight of the church, and when we emerge we are taken to the last of the shrines, the Holy Sepulchre, which is beneath the large altar of the church. We enter first a small antechamber. This contains, on a low pillar, a square of marble which is supposed to mark the spot where stood the angel who announced the Resurrection of Christ. Beyond this, stooping to get through the low door, we enter, almost kneeling, a tiny crypt where we find a facsimile of the Holy Sepulchre. It is covered with a slab of pure white marble, upon which, the guide explains, a crack was cunningly carved by the early Christians to keep from it the grasping hands of the Turks. We are about to leave when our guide takes us aside and favors us with a glance into the picturesque cloisters or covered walk around the interior court of the monastery. It is used by the monks for exercise and recreation and



A GLIMPSE OF THE CLOISTER.

we catch a glimpse of several of them walking up and down in earnest conversation.

"When we emerge, we can hardly realize that we have not, in some mysterious way, drifted back to mediaeval times, and it is with almost a shock that we see the modern electric and steam cars which will take us back to the city in five or ten minutes."

ALICE PIERSON, Washington, D. C.

Now for a little of the Zoology of Oregon.
"Oregon as a state is simply a vast area of sleeping beauty. Little heard of, little described, she slumbers in her wild grandeur, leaving her future to coming ages. In yonder thicket of somber firs the wily deer dozes between his intervals of cud-chewing in the day-time and romps with his mates in the forest glade when night hangs out her moon. Further beyond in the mighty elk, majestic sentinel of his herd, who scarcely heeds the shambling approach of a dusky bear.

But there is one animal which will not be found in this wild, mountainous country, but prefers to linger in the low hills just on the outskirts of civilization. This animal is the coyote which in Oregon is the most dreaded and hated of all beasts for the reason that the species of coyote in this state is perhaps the sharpest, trickiest and most damaging to the farmer of any of our nation's wolf tribe. His color is tan or light brown, his tail long and bushy, his ears straight and listful, and in those little eyes there glows a reckless cunning, a tireless vigilance which few animals possess. Unlike the prairie and timber wolves of the East, which often roam in bands, these coyotes always go prowling singly or in pairs.

"As champions of strategy they are close rivals to the South African Boer. You may hound one's track for hours and then call your dogs back in disgust because of your inability to tell what they are running. You may scout the hills for days and never catch sight of one. Yet you may barely reach home, dispose of your hunting garb and take the woodland path toward the house of some neighbor, when you will meet one face to face. If you have a gun, a hasty glimpse and a rustle in the distant autumn leaves, will act as a good reminder that you two have met and parted. If you are unarmed he will stand as still as death, with eyes gazing fondly into yours, and until you make some move of aggression, will never move a peg.

"When he wants a sheep he will approach a small flock, form them into a circle by trotting around them, and as they surge to and fro, will pick his sheep, kill it by a bite in the throat, suck its blood and leave the carcass. When pursued by hounds he is full of strategy. If there is a brook near at hand he will wade along it for a considerable distance to destroy the scent. When a forsaken brother is hard pressed by hounds a fresh coyote will often appear directly in front of the pack, and lure them off in pursuit of him while the other escapes and recuperates.

"The state of Oregon pays a bounty of two dollars each for the scalps of these beasts and many of the counties pay from three to five dollars, but scalps are hard to take and the treasuries do not suffer. The howl of this beast is weird and sickening. It usually begins with a series of long whines and ends with a lot of half-human shrieks, that drive terror to the soul.

"But here is a good illustration of the truth in the saying that 'a barking dog seldom bites'; for these animals are never known to spill human blood."

GEORGE JONES, Roseburg, Oregon.

Our next letter is from one of the older cousins. She has not visited us for some time, and we gladly welcome her entertaining contribution to our page.

"Among the Crow Indians who have just ceded a large reservation to the Government of the United States, lives the great Chief Plentyques, and not long since he visited the White Father at Washington. That he not only rules the tribe at large, but is also a ruler of the domestic circle, the following incident will show.

"Perhaps some of the cousins know the value of elk's teeth—they readily sell from fifty to seventy-five cents apiece, so that when a member of the 'four hundred' wishes to be very well indeed she possesses herself of a garment upon which these valuable ornaments are more or less plentifully besprinkled.

"One cold winter day, a traveler from the east was seated inside a store in Billings, Montana. A tall, fine looking specimen of native American came in, followed by his squaw who was gorgeously attired; and thrown around her shoulders, extending to the floor, was a bright cloth mantle covered with elk's teeth. The garment attracted the traveler's fancy. He asked the woman to sell it to him. This she haughtily refused to do. She held her head high, and seemed a proud and mighty dame. A high price was named, and this attracted the great chief's attention. He bade the woman remove the garment; she wept, implored, and prayed. Her lord was inexorable. She knelt before him, using every art and language she was possessed of to change him from his cruel purpose, but in vain. The insignia of her high estate was removed from her person; the money paid to the great warrior, and the two departed. Towards evening, upon looking out, two forms were noticed wending their homeward way. An Indian woman, bent almost double from the load upon her back, her head down, was wearily toiling along; while a few yards behind, with lofty strides came the 'heap big chief' Plentyques, viewing with complacency the bunches of bright tinware, red blankets, a saddle, ropes, harness, calico, etc., which now adorned the back of his princess in-

stead of the garment of state with which she had entered town in the morning, and of which she was so proud."

N. M. SAYER, Charleston, Illinois.

Here is a letter from one of our poor shut-in cousins who longs, no doubt, to be out in the busy world, and so writes, hoping to draw whiffs of that same world, in the shape of letters from the cousins, to his shadowed corner. He says:

"It has been a long time now since I 'visited' with you all, and I trust you will all give me a welcome reception while I try to give you a short description of this little village of Butter which is situated in a beautiful valley through which run both the Watauga river and Roan creek, and which is surrounded on all sides by lofty mountains. There are about three hundred inhabitants, all white, six stores, two churches, Baptist and Methodist, one rolling mill, a fine college, and nine months of school terms. Butter is a fairly good farming country, but its nearest railroad is twelve miles away. A new railroad is now being built, however, which will, when finished, pass through the village. We hope to see it in operation this spring.

"Will not the cousins remember me with letters as I am still a helpless shut-in?"

THOMAS J. BUNTON, Butter, Tenn.

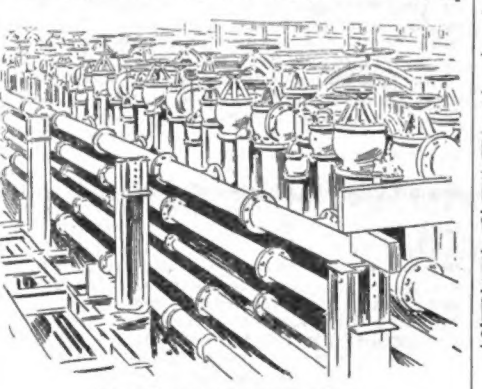
Mrs. V. D. Willison of Iron Hills P. O., Iowa, asks what one must do to get stories accepted. I know of no way to do but to write good stories in clear, terse, correctly spelled English, and then to offer them to such publications as use like stories. She also asks if one can copy from other stories. Never, under any circumstances! Let your stories be absolutely original if you wish to see them accepted and printed.

Next comes an interesting account of the making of beet sugar.

"The beets, when brought in by the farmers, are deposited in large sheds with V-shaped bottoms which are connected with the factory by means of channels through which a moderate flow of water carries the beets into the first washing machine. By means of a spiral they are tumbled about, washed, and carried on until they drop into an elevator which takes them to the top of the building. There they pass through an automatic weigher, and are sliced in such a manner as to open up their pores as much as possible.

"As these slices come from under the cutter they are put into a diffusion battery, of which there are two in the factory, each one having fourteen large cells or jars, holding several tons of the sliced beets, or cosettes as they are called, apiece. In this battery the juice is extracted from the beets by soaking them in warm water, which is turned into the contents of the first jar, and filtering through the mass of cosettes, passes out through a pipe set in the bottom of the jar. This pipe is also connected with the top of the second jar, thus carrying the water, forced along by pressure, into this jar, and thus the liquid is carried from one jar to another until it has passed through the whole fourteen. The water is now turned off and jar number two becomes number one—the first one being emptied of its cosettes, refilled and replaced as number fourteen; and so the work of the different batteries goes on, day and night, without cessation.

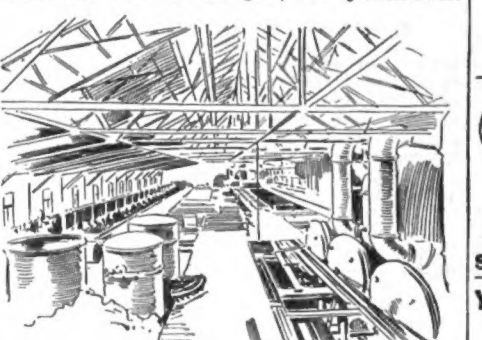
"The liquid which is drawn off from the battery



BATTERY OF DIFFUSION CELLS.

and which is of the color of vinegar, is conveyed first to a measuring tank, where impurities are removed by a chemical process, and then to the first filtration station. Thence it goes to saturation tanks, where the process of purification is completed; and it is again sent to the filtration station. After this it is clarified in the sulphur station, and then the filter station, which consists of twenty-six different machines, deals with the liquid for a time, and after this it is ready for the evaporators where begins the process of reducing the liquid to sugar. After a course of evaporation it is again clarified, and is now ready to be boiled down in the vacuum pans. These vacuum pans induce boiling at a much lower temperature than by the ordinary method, and their use materially reduces the cost of the manufacture of sugar. There are three of these pans in the factory, each measuring fifteen feet in diameter and having a capacity of five hundred and fifty barrels of sugar.

"Next come the crystallizers, then the mixers, and then the treatment in the centrifugals, which machines are, and must be, beautiful examples of perfect mechanism, because upon the ease and rapidity of their movement depend the success of the process. The thick, boiled down syrup is poured into these centrifugals, and by their swift



INTERIOR OF FACTORY.

revolutions the sugar is separated from the syrup and adheres to the sides to the centrifugal; the syrup is drawn off and the sugar transferred to the bins, from whence it is conveyed to the granulators and thoroughly dried. This is the last act in the process of manufacturing, and the sugar is dropped to the ground floor where it is sacked and stored in the sugarhouse ready for sale and shipment."

SIGNORA CRAWFORD, Clifton Forge, Va.

Next comes a description of the home of our cousin in Montezuma, Colorado, which really makes me wish I could ask her to take me as a summer boarder.

"Our home is about six miles below Argentine Pass and about two from Gray's Peak. We are snugly tucked in among the mountains, while the narrow stream known as the Snake river catches the sunbeams as it goes dancing by. Around us on every hand those rocky heights reach heavenward. We can stand in our door any day in the summer and see patches of snow which we can reach by half an hour's climbing. Over one hundred and thirty different varieties of flowers have been found within the radius of a mile. The birds waken us at dawn by their songs. And we always

have that God-given right to breathe the pure air of heaven; air which is as pure and as fresh as it was in Eden.

"From about the fourth of July until the middle of August we have the rainy season, though of late years it has not amounted to much until this summer. But it only rains a part of each day, and when the rain stops the sky is clear, the sun is bright and everything is lovely. The very air seems full of gladness. There are not many people here and the calm and holy grandeur of our surroundings tend to carry us away from the little trials and perplexities of every day life and to inspire us with thoughts of the Eternal and Changeless One whose care is ever around us.

"The mountains are so high that they appear to pierce the heavens and when we first came here our oldest daughter was barely three years old, and when she noticed a game trail over one of the highest mountains she ran to me exclaiming, 'Oh! mamma, I see the place where the people go to heaven when they die. I see the trail on the mountain.' I suppose to her childish fancy it seemed that departing spirits took that trail and when they reached the summit of the mountain stepped right off into heaven. I fear we shall not reach heaven so easily."

MRS. F. A. MITCHELL, Montezuma, Colorado.

I can sympathize with this little girl's fancy, for I distinctly remember wondering, when I was but little older than she, why people did not build ladders which would carry them into heaven, and so save themselves the long and toilsome work of "being good" in order to get there.

I have several letters from cousins which are either in the nature of advertisements or which ask for exchange of commodities, or which even in one or two cases ask for gifts from our readers. I am sorry to seem disobliging to these correspondents, but our page is not intended for that class of letters, and since our space is very limited I must reserve it for such letters as entertain and instruct my readers.

I have a very interesting personal letter from Mrs. Miller, whose husband was a newspaper correspondent in Cuba at the time of the surrender of Admiral Cervera, and who was an eye-witness of the destruction of Cervera's fleet. She writes of the interest with which both herself and her husband read Ashby Watkin's letter on the Cristobal Colon which appeared on this page in the early part of last winter.

And now I must regretfully say good-bye and lock up the remainder of my budget of letters until next month.

AUNT MINERVA.

A POCKET LUXURY

Is a tortoise shell comb in a neat and fancy case, always handy and useful; good for men, women, school children and the soldiers. We will send one with our great catalogue of thousands of bargains for only six cents. Address, Comfort, Augusta, Maine.

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BY EVERETT G. WHEELMAN.

SOMEbody wants to know what good is accomplished by the "Cycle Shows" that are now held annually in all the large cities. In the first place they promote sociability by bringing together wheelmen from all parts of the country and making them acquainted with each other. When a cycle-show is held in the United States, promoters and exhibitors do all in their power to make it attractive to the general public. The manufacturers and dealers meet, do business and exchange ideas, but at the same time the people are by no means forgotten; information is gladly given them; they circulate freely throughout the show and have every opportunity to compare the various makes of cycles and sundries.

There is no greater stimulus to the bicycle trade than the Cycle Show.

According to a veteran road rider the best way to clean a chain is to give it a good soaking over-night in a pan of paraffine or kerosene. Then the links should be worked one by one to rub out any of the clinging dirt. Next a thin lubricating oil should be applied to the links, and after the first ride with the chain so lubricated the most satisfactory thing to apply (of course, sparingly) is a mixture of tallow and black lead. This is rather messy to prepare, but a pot of it will last for years. The tallow keeps the chain easy and the black lead makes it run smoothly. He said he was not a believer in the thin lubricating oils that are frequently offered for sale. They are all right for machines to be used on the racing track, but lack substance for the machine of the ordinary rider.

Col. Pope attributes the growing popularity of the chainless wheel to the fact that it is the easiest running, best protected and most satisfactory gear ever applied to a bicycle. "We have yet to receive the first complaint or adverse criticism from a purchaser of a chainless. On the contrary," says he, "we have a sufficient number of enthusiastic testimonials to fill the biggest scrapbook on earth. Any man or woman who has purchased a chainless wheel will never go back to the chain type. We know this because they tell us so."

The Orient chainless has a Sager gear. This Sager gear is a rotary gear, that is, the teeth are not cut, but are made upon a pin about which they revolve. That is, the wheel gear is so mounted. The shaft gear is cut and rigid. It is claimed that this gear is an improvement on the bevel gear, in that it reduces the friction.

The first chainless wheels have now been ridden nearly 50,000 miles, and like wine, they improve with age, their mechanism showing no perceptible wear.

A new motor to be attached to any bicycle is so narrow that it goes into the frame of a bicycle and does not interfere with the use of the pedals. It weighs twenty pounds, and the other attachments weigh about five pounds. It has a speed of six to twenty miles an hour, the same being controlled by a small lever near the handle bar or a button in the end of the bar. It is started by a few turns of the pedals, and a turn of the lever. Sufficient gasoline for a day's run can be carried. The motor is finished in nickel and enamel and can be used either with or without the outside case.

A new English cyclist's boot is provided with a flap on the inner side of the upper which can be turned up to keep the trousers away from the pedals.

To adapt a new English bicycle to riders of either sex the top bar is hinged at the head and connected by a screw socket to either the portion of the frame under the saddle or a brace near the crank hanger.

Over \$2,000,000 has been spent by the State of Massachusetts in the building of improved highways. All of this vast sum has been secured from the legislature through the efforts of the League of American Wheelmen and every wheelman riding over them is indebted to the League for his pleasure, yet a large majority of them are not members of the organization which they could assist so materially in this and other lines of work.

The English Government has been experimenting with motor cycles in modern warfare. One British firm has already shipped fifteen motor cycles to the Transvaal. These machines are used for scouting purposes. But unless they have been muffled they will make noise enough to announce their approach to the enemy a long distance. Most of the motor cycles used in this country last year for racing purposes made a noise not unlike a continuous discharge of firecrackers. The machines sent to South Africa are said to be capable of going about twenty-two miles an hour over ordinary roads. A young Cambridge graduate is having an armored motor built which will be fitted with a rapid fire gun capable of firing five hundred rounds a minute.

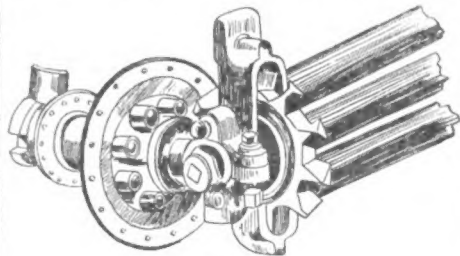
An enterprising English firm builds to order houses for automobiles. They are portable houses, of light construction, quickly erected at any point, and have a neat appearing exterior. For a small runabout a house 6 by 8 feet

has been designed. The sides are panelled and the interior lined with felt. The floor is raised slightly from the ground, and a hinged board at the door, turned in when the door is closed, forms an incline to run the automobile on.

"The style of modern riding is much more suitable to hill climbing than the old-fashioned and ungainly methods," said an old rider recently. "There is one golden rule in getting up slopes which should be remembered by all riders, especially those whose hearts are inclined to go pit a pat, and that is to keep the mouth shut. So long as you are breathing easily and well without gasping you are safe enough, and may continue, but if the exertion is violent enough to force you to inhale wind between your teeth, hop off and walk."

One of the highest geared bicycles ever constructed is said to have been built lately in New York for racing purposes at the forthcoming Paris Exhibition. The front sprocket contains sixty teeth and the rear sprocket seven teeth, giving a gear of two hundred and forty. To ride a mile in a minute on this gear the rider will have to make only one revolution every three-quarters of a second, or eighty revolutions in the minute.

Several rules for finding the gear of a bicycle have been published here but the following,



THE SAGER GEAR.

going the rounds of the press, presents still another method: "First you count the teeth on the front sprocket; then you forget and count them over again. Then you go through the same motions with the rear sprocket. Between first and second counts you scratch your head, repeat over a few well-learned incantations, and cudgel your brain back into the problem. By the time you have done examining the teeth of the rear sprocket, and find that your steely steed is of age, you forget for the second time the number of masticators on the front one. Then you go over the figures again, both front and rear; try to remember them while you think of the next step in the process, throw your cap on the road, slam the machine up against the fence, bend the handle bar, and divide by seven elevenths. Then multiply the diameter of the rear tire by the number of links in the chain, divide by three, add the number of spokes in the front wheel, subtract ten, add eleven, kick off a crank, multiply by sixteen, and go rushing down the road stark, staring mad."

A good story is told of Mark Twain and his friend the Rev. Joseph H. Twitcheil of Hartford, Conn. It seems that they once planned a bicycle trip from that city to Boston, and so notified a friend who lived at the "Hub." The appointed day was an ideal one for a long run, and the two friends started quite early in the morning. But neither of them were accustomed to long rides, so after twelve or fifteen miles had been ridden, it became apparent that each of the riders was waiting for the other to say something. Finally Twain said as they came in sight of the railway station in a small town they had entered: "Let's take the train the rest of the way."

Of course Mr. Twitcheil agreed, and so the acquaintance in Boston was surprised by seeing the two friends walk up to his door about one o'clock in the afternoon. He greeted them warmly, and addressing Mr. Twitcheil, said, "Well, you made pretty good time, didn't you?"

"O, fairly good time for novices," was the reply. "What time did you leave Hartford?" he asked of Mr. Clemens.

"About 7 A. M."

"What, you don't mean to say that you have ridden all the way from Hartford to Boston on your bicycles?"

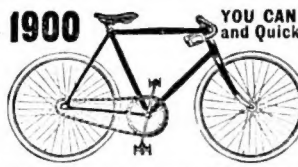
"No," replied Mark Twain, "but we rode far enough to demonstrate that it could be done."

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PECULIAR COINCIDENCES.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



GOING through the records at the United States Patent Office one is struck by the curious, not to say amusing, coincidences which often occur between the names of the patentees and their patents. Such coincidences are often to be found, it is true, in business circles, between the name of the merchant and the business which he carries on; but here, where so many thousands of records are gathered together, the number of cases in which the name of the worker is appropriate to his business or his invention is far more noticeable than elsewhere.

For instance, Messrs. Blizzard, Fairweather, Thunderbolt and Rein have taken out patents for improvements in weather devices. Mr. Snow has patented a sleigh, while Mr. Cutter has an improved runner for Mr. Snow's sleigh. Later Mr. Cutter took out a patent for an ice-cutter. Mr. Break has a patent for a break-shoe, Mr. Buck for a new species of buckle, and Mr. Jack for a boot-jack. Mr. G. P. Gunn has invented a breech-loading rifle, while Mr. Candy, doubtless inspired by his name, invented some candy tablets.

Mr. Drybread has on record at the Patent Office a new brand of wheat flour, which, if his name is any advertisement of his wares, must sell very poorly. Mr. Braiser invented a stone firepot and stoker, while Mr. Bolt has a patent for a combination lock. Mr. McTamanny has a novel voting machine, Mr. Horse has gone into the racing business and invented a fast-driving rein, and Mr. Larson has a patent burglar alarm.

Mr. Husbands, who, by the way, is unmarried, has perfected a baby jumper, while Mr. Girl has patented a baby-walker. Mr. Carr has a patent for a car-mover, and Mr. Gatewood has a novel gate on the market. Mr. Daubenspeck has a washing machine, Mr. Mustard an improved spicebox, Sticky a delectable molasses candy, and Ring a new kind of curtain ring. Mr. Flour casts on the world a new flour bin, while Mr. Duckering has a model incubator, and Mr. Turnipseed a new fertilizer. Mr. Corn follows with a new corn-husker, and Mr. Wheelwright with a patent wheel. Mr. Split has a device for sealing splits in punctured wheels, and Mr. Wax has another for the same purpose.

Mr. Penman has originated an eraser, and Mr. Pencil a notebook, Mr. Sober a barrel tap, and Mr. Blaze a fire extinguisher.

These are only a few of the many cases on record in this big United States curiosity shop, in which the name of the inventor and that of his invention seemingly fit each other exceedingly well, but time and space would fail long before we should reach the end of the list, so we will not longer tax the patience of the reader.

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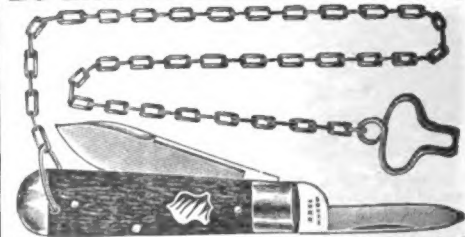
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It is especially recommended to young people starting in business life and to those with neglected education. Even the Indian office of the U. S. Government has recognized its educational merits and recommended that the superintendents of all Indian schools be supplied with samples. **SPECIAL OFFER.** These Calculating Pencils sell for 25c. each, but we are anxious to show you how wonderful they are so will send one free to all who enclose 15c. for a six months' subscription to **SUNSHINE**, the great monthly two pencils and a year's subscription for only 25c. Thousands are sold by agents. Six pencils for 60c., twelve for one dollar, all charges paid by us. One hundred for \$7.50, express and post paid. Address **SUNSHINE, Box 11, Augusta, Maine.**

IN BANANA LAND.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



I WONDER how many of the boys and girls who may read this article know that the banana tree throws up its first green shoot, grows into a tree of full size, bears a single bunch of fruit, dies and is cut down all within a year? Thus brief is the life of the banana tree. The culture of the banana and the harvesting of the fruit for the market is a very interesting process to those who visit the tropics where the banana reaches the highest state of perfection. By far the greater part of the bananas shipped to America come from the West Indies, and the island of Jamaica is wonderfully productive of this fruit. Thousands of bunches of bananas are shipped to the United States from Jamaica every year, and the cultivation of the fruit is now the chief industry of that island of about six hundred thousand inhabitants. This island once so famous for the production of rum and sugar is now given over almost wholly to the cultivation of bananas, coconuts, oranges, lemons, and many kinds of tropical fruits never seen in America because they are too perishable to ship so far. The banana, as you may know, is cut from the tree when green and it ripens while enroute to America or after its arrival here. It is never allowed to ripen on the trees for if it were it could not be shipped at all.

The cultivation of the banana is very simple. The trees are grown in regular rows just as corn is grown in America. The rows are about fifteen feet apart, and the trees stand within about fifteen feet of each other in the rows. Holes a foot or more deep are dug in the rows and a banana sucker, or root, is put into this hole and covered entirely over with soil. In about a month a pale green shoot quite like a blade of corn comes peeping through the soil. This is speedily followed by more green shoots until there is a little circle of them which is called the "banana mat." Not all of these green shoots are allowed to live. All but three or four of them are cut away just as the American farmer would cut away some of the stalks of corn if there should happen to come three or four dozen stalks in a hill.

The banana field must be kept free from weeds, and the natives are constantly at work with the hoe or the machete clearing out the weeds which are naturally very abundant in a tropical climate. The machete is used far more than the hoe. Indeed, the machete seems to be the one tool of the common laborer in the West Indies. It is a sort of a cutlass or knife from fifteen inches to two feet in length and from two to three inches in width with a wooden or perhaps a horn handle. (See initial.) The native of Jamaica makes it serve purposes for which the American would never think of using it, and it is the only tool most of the natives ever use in the cultivation of the banana. When weeding with it the laborer must kneel on the ground and thrust the long blade under the roots of the weeds in order to pull the weed up. It is a slower and harder process than would be necessary with the hoe, but the black

man of Jamaica does not take kindly to innovations and the machete of his father and of his grandfathers is good enough for him. Moreover, he is not in the slightest hurry to get his work done. The natives of tropical climates know not the meaning of the word "hurry," and it is estimated that it requires three of them to do the work that one man in America would do in a day.

The banana tree grows with such wonderful rapidity that it generally attains its full size within a year. It is then about twenty-five feet high while its leaves sometimes attain a length of fifteen feet and are nearly three feet in width.

The leaves are so brittle that they soon become shredded by the wind and the tree presents rather a ragged appearance. After twelve or fifteen of the large leaves have appeared a small leaf rises above them as the forerunner of the blossom of the banana tree. The blossom is very large and of a dark plum color. It does not unfold into a flower, but after a few days its stalk begins to bend over toward the ground and its leaves begin to drop off and the tiny green fruit begins to form.

A somewhat singular thing is the fact that the ends of the bananas not attached to the stalk point upward when the bunch is on the tree and not downward as when the fruit is seen hanging in the American markets. In harvesting the fruit the man who is to gather it takes his machete and cuts a gash in the tree as far up as he can reach. This causes the upper part of the tree with the heavy bunch of bananas on it to drop downward until the man can easily reach the bunch of fruit which he severs from the tree with a single blow of his machete. The fruit is then lifted into a cart drawn by a mule and carried to the wharf to be shipped to American or English ports. There is no regular season for the production of the banana although they are more abundant some months than others. But one may see bananas being harvested any month of the year in the tropics.

The loading of banana boats is an interesting sight. At many ports the boats are loaded



A BANANA GROWER'S HOME.

entirely by the black women of the island. Hundreds of them assemble at the wharves where the boats are to be loaded. All of them are barefooted and they are ragged beyond be-

lief. They form in long lines and march up the gang plank with great bunches of bananas on their heads. Indeed, they carry everything on their heads. They are for the most part small women and it is surprising to see them stand perfectly erect while a bunch of bananas weighing perhaps eighty or one hundred pounds is flung upon their heads by two men. They march away under this burden perfectly erect and with no indication that it is any



BANANA WOMEN OF JAMAICA.

great strain on them to carry such a weight. They are paid twenty-five cents for every hundred bunches of bananas they carry on the boat, and as they cannot get employment more than two or three days in a week their earnings are very small. Fortunately for them their wants are simple. They live in little bamboo huts with thatched roofs, and live chiefly on the tropical fruits growing in such abundance around them. They are, however, inordinately fond of dress, and most of their small earnings are spent for cheaply gorgeous clothing and gewgaws of every sort. They have the fondness of the average negro for bright colors, and they present a truly gorgeous appearance when they fare forth in their "Sunday best." One would not recognize them as the barefooted, dirty and fearfully bedraggled creatures who load the banana boats or work in the fields on other days. They will spend the profits of days of labor for a showy silk parasol or a pair of white kid shoes or gorgeous hat.

The visitor to a tropical country will find much that is interesting, while the vegetation is very beautiful, but he will be very likely to come to the conclusion after a sojourn of a few weeks in the tropics, that his native land is best, and that it is more delightful to visit a tropical country than it is to make it his permanent abode.

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Decoration Day has a new and added significance in the last two years. Time had softened the sorrow of those for whose dead the day was set aside. It had become a day of sad and tender memories. Now its flowers can but cover the fresh brown earth on the graves of these latest ones who have died for the Union. The pain is too sharp and too new to admit of words. The nation is brought face to face with the keen sense of individual and personal loss. We may speak of the bravery in after years; now we can only drop the flowers silently.

The Shah of Persia is to set out upon his travels during the latter part of this month. He will make a short stay in Moscow, a longer one in St. Petersburg and then visit Berlin. The Paris Exposition is the next point and then England. He returns by way of Vienna and Constantinople. Students of Eastern affairs read a political significance in this seeming pleasure trip. The comparatively long stay in Russia with the after visit in Turkey suggests to some that Russia means to force Turkey into some concessions in regard to Eastern Asia Minor.

The Rev. Mr. Sheldon's newspaper venture has made more discussion than any "newspaper doing" in the history of printing. Professional newspaper men have gravely discussed the difference between "news" and "information." The result of the symposium seems to be that information is news old enough to have been crystallized into truth. When news lives to attain its majority it becomes information and in a few years history. Mr. Sheldon, therefore, could hardly be said to have published a newspaper—rather it was a bureau of information. His leading articles were either essays or information. The old struggle between the practical and the ideal was supposed to have a revival in this paper. However, but few people could bring themselves to say that this was an ideal newspaper and no one believed that it was practical.

COMFORT urged the establishment of "school gardens" more than a year ago and outlined the plan of their use as shown in the school gardens of Germany. They are as much a part of the regular instruction there as text books are in our schools. The rural schools might seem to have less use for these gardens than the schools of the town or city, but as a matter of fact they have quite as great a need of the systematic botanical instructions as city schools and for very practical reasons. Many of the pupils attending the rural schools will become farmers and all instruction in plant life has a practical as well as an ethical and educational value to them. The pupil of the city school may never make practical use of the knowledge but it has a part in his mental and moral development. The idea is new in this country but it is bound to grow. The United States Department of Agriculture now publishes a pamphlet upon the subject of School Gardens. COMFORT trusts that its pioneer work in endeavoring to interest the people in this idea may induce its readers to send for the pamphlet and make practical application of the suggestions contained.

A new thing under the sun is to be developed in New York. At least the idea in the completeness that is to be given it is new. This is the Hall of Fame. A sum of money has been given to Columbia College to build a lofty colonnade hall to connect two of the large build-

ings of the University. One hundred and fifty panels are to be placed there, inscribed with the names of men worthy of a record. The first fifty names are to be inscribed at once and new names added at regular intervals. It is suggested that members of the American Historical Association be the ones placed upon this committee. Statues, busts and inscriptions may be added. It will be interesting to note what names are among the first fifty selected. Already the "unquiet sex" has made its claim to a share and a place in the Hall of Fame. It is more than hinted that the donor of the money is Miss Helen Gould. No doubt an analysis of the lives of many of the men whose names will be preserved on the honor rolls of the Hall would show some woman's influence and inspiration as a means to success. It would seem that there should be no adverse opinions as to woman's right and claim in the Hall of Fame.

New England, with its old traditions of culture and education, is sometimes lacking in a sense of humor. It is doubtful if an intense serious person occupied in inventing religions or discussing soul problems can have a sense of humor, or even if the Puritans tap root could produce so delicate a flower. A Yale professor stated that ninety per cent. of the marriages of the country were unhappy. Forthwith the air buzzed with the protests and explanations and deductions of people who felt that this was a subject that they knew something about. On top of this comes the grave statement that the legislature of Massachusetts plans to frame a law that shall make it necessary for any man who wishes to marry out of the state to procure a special permit. All this evidently with minds kindly concerned as to the fate of the seventy thousand unappropriated blessings of the state. The statement of the professor and the action of the legislature make a strange combination. It may be that the learned legislature found some relation between the ninety per cent. who find marriage a failure and the evident tendency to bring "imported" brides into the country. They seem to forget that the power to regulate imports and exports rests with Congress but would even be unconstitutional in order to be locally gallant.

The World's Conference of Missionaries has just found its sessions in New York. It is the first time that this great body consisting of over two thousand delegates has met in the United States. It represents all organized forms and fields of missionary work. The American Board of Foreign Missions of Boston is the oldest of the organizations in the United States. No gathering presents the peculiar features of interest that this body does. Aside and apart from its religious work it contributes largely to the sum of geographical and historical knowledge. Its delegates have penetrated portions of the globe unknown to white men. They have the most accurate knowledge of the customs, habits, modes of thinking and living among savage and semi-barbarous nations. A compilation of their observations would make a most valuable contribution to folk lore. The man or woman who lives among "strange people" as one of them acquires the most careful and exhaustive knowledge of existing conditions possible to attain. The adventures of these men would be more thrilling than the wildest romance. The magnitude of the missionary work is imperfectly comprehended. The average church goer contents himself by showing some slight pecuniary interest in "Missionary Sunday" but even the most indifferent have had their interest aroused by this great meeting of men from the uttermost parts of the earth.

Russian rule in Finland is having its veritable results. In thousands, in tens of thousands the Finlanders are leaving their native land and seeking homes elsewhere. It is estimated that over fifty-five thousand Finnish farmers will come to the United States and Canada during the summer. The general impression is that in the Finlanders we shall have a very desirable class of immigrants. They do not crowd into the cities, being skilled in the cultivation of the soil. They are industrious, frugal and law abiding and possess a high average of intelligence. The movement for the Russianizing of Finland awakened much interest in this country and many appeals on behalf of Finland were made. The silent, crushing paw of the Russian Bear did not falter and to-day Finland does not exist except in history. It has ceased to be a Grand Duchy, the office of Assistant Minister of State for Finland at St. Petersburg has been abolished and Finland is not represented at the Court. The autonomy of the nation promised by the Czar's father has been abolished in theory and fact. It was said that the people would give up their country when it was no longer theirs and the statistics of immigration will amply bear out this statement. Those who love their native land enough to leave it when it is no longer free will make good citizens of a free country.

The large fund raised for the widow of Gen. Lawton and the plans to raise a similar subscription for Mrs. Henry directs public attention to the justice of a change in our existing pension laws as applied to officers of long standing. In almost every other nation of the world a small private fortune is considered necessary before the young man chooses the army or navy as a profession. As a consequence the salary of the position seems amply sufficient for family needs. With us it is the exception for officers to have private means. Our salaries are small when we consider the financial demands that the nomadic life renders necessary. The family of an officer must be supported in a style becoming his rank. As a result the income is barely sufficient for the daily needs and nothing is left if the husband or father dies. In the case of both these officers of high rank the family was left without means and the government pension is too small to support any family. Private subscription has endeavored to remedy this in two cases. The gifts are generous and sincere expressions of the feeling of the nation but they should not

be necessary. There are many widows of officers as deserving as these that have received this public expression of interest and good will. The law should be changed so that the pay of an officer or at least two-thirds of it should be the right of his widow during her life time. We have given thousands of dollars to aid the soldiers of the "Widow of Windsor." This is well but it is better to remember our own—both officers and men have families who miss the care and protection of dead heroes. Let the united and expressed sentiment of the nation speak for these.

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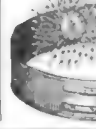


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| 212 Leap Year Schottische . . . Kahn | 283 Kilmaree . . . Balfe |
| 213 Le Bon Air. Polka Mazurka . . . Niles | 284 Kiss me, but don't say goodbye . . . Kautsky |
| 214 Lee's (Gen.) "On to Cuba" Galop . . . Darkee | 285 Kiss me, but don't say goodbye . . . Kautsky |
| 215 Lohengrin. Selections . . . Dur ee | 286 Kiss me, but don't say goodbye . . . Kautsky |
| 216 London March—Two Step . . . Missud | 287 Kiss me, but don't say goodbye . . . Kautsky |
| 217 Maiden's Prayer. The . . . Badaricske | 288 Kiss me, but don't say goodbye . . . Kautsky |
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DIXIE BELLES.

To Miss Callie Littlepage.

TWO STEP.

R. M. POWERS.

Tempo di marcia.

TRIO.

Grandioso.

8va

1

2

8va

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Destroying Church Organs.

At the present time we can hardly realize the bitterness with which the Puritans pursued anything connected with Roman Catholic belief. The reaction had come and from the extreme of ritualism and art in worship the reformers went to the other extreme of simplicity and bareness. Although Luther believed in music, the later reformers considered it as part of Popery and attempted to crush it out. In the year 1664 the Roundheads destroyed the

organs in the churches and cathedrals throughout England. When the pipes were torn from the organ at Westminster Abbey, the mob of fanatics set up the cry, "Hark! how the organs go!" and "Mark what music that is, that is lawful for a Puritan to dance to." Strange as it may appear for the sake of consistency, the metal of the pipes was sold and the money so obtained was used to purchase ale to treat the men who destroyed the organs.

Much to the delight of musical people Grand Opera in English is to be thoroughly tried this

autumn in the Metropolitan Opera House in New York, under the direction of the best leaders. Many people have declared that the prevailing idea that English does not lend itself to correct music has been sufficiently exploded by the use of German in opera; and that it is affectation to insist on Italian or French libretto.

Such an opportunity to obtain a musical bargain is seldom found. To get a full idea of this chance to obtain the best of sheet music almost as a gift, read the music offer in another col-

umn. Money promptly refunded if not as offered.

England's latest composer of prominence is Fritz Delius. As his name indicates he is of German parentage, and he studied at Leipzig and Paris conservatories. He was, however, born and brought up in Yorkshire, England. On this account England will be able to claim him as her own should he become as famous as his present work promises. At a later date probably no less than three nationalities will claim him for their own.

TUSKEGEE AND ITS WORK.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



THE word Tuskegee has been seen so many times in print during the last ten years that many people who see it and do not know just what it stands for ask, "Just what is Tuskegee, and where is it?"

Tuskegee is the shire town of Macon county, Alabama. It is about forty miles southeast of Montgomery, the capital of Alabama, and one hundred and forty from Atlanta. It is reached from the North by way of the Southern Railroad to Atlanta, and by the Western of Alabama, from there. It is one of the oldest towns in the State. In fact it is said that when De Soto made his famous march inland from the sea he found an Indian village on the same site by the name of Toskigil.

When the word Tuskegee is seen in print now, it generally refers to the great Negro school there, established and built up by Booker T. Washington. This school is remarkable for many things, but three of the most important are that it is the greatest school wholly for colored people in the country, that its teachers are, like the pupils, all Negroes, and that over thirty practical trades are taught the students there by actual work. The students at Tuskegee now number over twelve hundred every year, and there are between eighty and ninety teachers.

A short article printed in COMFORT some time ago told something of Mr. Washington's life; how he was born a slave in Virginia, and struggled along until he worked his way to Hampton, and got an education there. While he was at Hampton he resolved that as soon as he was fitted to do so he would go into some place in the South where the Negroes seemed to be particularly ignorant and devote his whole life to giving them the same kind of help that had been given him at Hampton. In 1881 the Legislature of the State of Alabama appropriated money to establish a normal school for colored teachers, and Mr. Washington was selected as the teacher. He began his school there on the 4th of July, 1881, by gathering thirty untainted Negro men and women into an old shanty.

The new school had not been in progress long before the teacher made up his mind that his pupils needed to learn how to work, and how to take care of their bodies, quite as much as they needed to learn books. He felt that he needed to have an influence over them for a longer time than just during the hours of the school day. He found that he could buy a plantation of a hundred acres of land and a few old buildings a mile from Tuskegee. He borrowed the money of a friend at Hampton, bought the place and moved his school out there. So many new scholars began to want to come to the school that more buildings were needed.

There was a good clay pit on the place. Mr. Washington set some of the young men students to making bricks, and when the bricks were ready, to building a house with them. Other young men worked on the land, raising corn for food and cotton to be sold to buy things which could not be raised. A man in Massachusetts gave money to buy a horse, and a man in Tuskegee gave an outfit of tools for the brickyard. That has been one remarkable thing about this school. From the first the white people of the South have recognized the good work which it was doing in teaching the colored people how to do skilled, useful labor, and have helped it along. A small blacksmith shop was started, and then a wheelwright shop. The young women students did the housework, laundry work, and mending for all the school, and learned cooking and sewing. Friends in the North who heard Mr. Washington tell of the plans of the school gave more money, and this was made to go far. Nothing was bought which the students could make themselves. Even now they make all their own furniture, mattresses, etc.

From that beginning Tuskegee Institute has grown until now it owns twenty-five hundred acres of land, five hundred of which the students cultivate. It teaches such trades to the men, in addition to those I have mentioned, as carpentry, machine shop work, printing, shoe making, tailoring, tin-smithing, electrical engineering, and saw-mill work. Farming in all its branches is thoroughly taught. The young women learn, in addition to the trades I have spoken of, mattress making, dress making and millinery, nursing, poultry raising, dairy work, bee-keeping, the care of fruit trees and bushes, and the care of flower gardens and lawns.

The courses of study in these trades are just as carefully planned out and followed as are those in the academic classes. I copy from the school's catalogue the course for the first term of the second year in blacksmithing: "Horse-shoeing. The condition of a shoeing floor. How to make a shoeer's fire. The names and uses of shoeing tools. What and how to make a mould, also how to strike on a shoe. The names and sizes of shoes and nails, also the



CHAPEL AT TUSKEGEE.

different kinds of shoes. How to file a shoe, also how to pull off a shoe, trim a foot and clinch a shoe. The different parts of a foot and how to drive a nail. The different kinds of shoes that are used for horses with different ways of traveling. Special lessons in fitting to different shaped feet." Compositions are written on these subjects monthly. The blacksmith shop now is a building 38x61 feet, containing nine forges and all necessary tools. It is full of students all of the time, and when a man graduates he is able to set up a shop for

himself. I have visited several men in different parts of the South who have done so.

I copy the first year's course of study in dressmaking. Before the girls can take this up they have to spend two years in the plain sewing room, or show an ability to do the work done there. "Choice of materials. Drafting and cutting foundation and outline skirts from measurement. Making, hanging, draping and trimming the skirt. Talks on form, line and proportion in relation to draping and trimming. Drafting, cutting and fitting plain basques, and the general finish of these garments." There are two more years' study in dressmaking.

These shops and classes turn out men and women who know their trades, and people all over the South are beginning to appreciate this. The school cannot begin to supply all the demands made upon it for skilled artisans. People from hundreds of miles away write to know if the Institute cannot furnish a good carpenter or blacksmith, or nurse or cook, and almost invariably the pay offered is good.

This industrial work is carried on in connection with the regular academic, and moral and religious training of any large school. There is an undenominational Bible School, in which each year about seventy-five Negro men and women, often ministers themselves, are trained to become more efficient church and Sunday-school workers. The academic department gives a thoroughly good English education, and has turned out a great many teachers who are doing good work all over the South. A great many men and women both have been inspired with Mr. Washington's spirits for a desire to work for their race, and have given their lives to found other schools where the Tuskegee principles can be extended. Such schools are the one at Snow Hill, Alabama, with over three hundred pupils, at Mt. Meigs, Alabama, with two hundred, at Denmark, South Carolina, with three hundred, at Eatonville, Florida, with over a hundred, and in a great many places where just as good work is being carried on upon a smaller scale. In all these schools, just as soon as they get large enough, the pupils are not only taught books, but to work.

The expense at Tuskegee is only \$8 a month, for a furnished room, fuel, lights, laundry and board. No charge is made for tuition, because very few could pay it. The money for the support of the schools which this would represent, Mr. Washington secures from friends of the school and education who are willing to help him in his work. He is endeavoring now to secure a permanent endowment fund, from the income of which the school may be largely supported, so as to leave him free to devote his time and energy to the execution management.

Small as is the expense more than half of the students cannot afford to pay for it, and so they are allowed to work out their expenses. They work on the land, in the shops and brick yard, in the laundry, kitchen, offices, everywhere, and are allowed to a regular rate of pay, according to their ability. This is not paid them in money, but put to their credit. While they are at work in this way they go to school only in the evening. Usually two years work in this way will give a student enough credit so that he or she can go into the day school classes for the rest of their time at the school. Coming as most of these young people do out of homes or off of farms where they have had no systematic training in modern methods of work, the time they spend in this way under skilled instructors is really one of the most valuable parts of their education.

The school now has over four hundred graduates, and over three thousand under graduates, almost all of them doing good work throughout the South. There are now forty-four buildings large and small, on the school ground, and all but three of these have been built by the students themselves as a part of their industrial education. Among these is a magnificent modern brick church, capable of seating two thousand four hundred persons. When President McKinley visited Tuskegee, not long ago, he spoke to the students in this church.

One of the greatest features at Tuskegee is the annual Negro Conference which meets there in February of each year. This was begun by Mr. Washington, to see if something could not be done to help elevate the older generation of Negroes, the men and women who were most of them slaves, and who have had little or no chance to get an education. Ten years ago he invited about seventy-five farmers, mechanics, teachers and ministers to come to Tuskegee to spend a day discussing their conditions and needs. To his surprise four hundred men and women of all classes came in answer to this invitation, and the number has kept increasing ever since. Most of these people come from Alabama, but there are delegates now from every southern state, and the effect of these meetings is felt widely. Two hundred and fifty similar local conferences have been formed which meet during the year and report here. The people who come are hard working farmers and their wives, mainly. They discuss very practical matters. How to get homes and keep them. How to keep out of debt and clear of mortgages. The need of something better than a one-room hut for a home. Better schools, and teachers and ministers. Pay your taxes and stay off the streets.

The Negro women take just as much interest in the Conference as do the men, and frequently are among the most entertaining speakers. One woman reported an association formed by the women in her community to fight the mortgage evil. Every woman who joined it agreed not to wear any article of mortgaged clothing or eat any mortgaged food. After they got fairly started they pooled their money and began to buy cloth and groceries in quantities, dividing the goods among themselves. They had been much pleased with the success of this plan. They got lower prices and better measure.

One woman, when the Conference was discussing the evils of one-room cabin homes, got up and said: "I was a widow. I had two children and John had five. I married him and that made seven. He had only one room to his house. I told him he had to get more and he got them. I have one room specially for cooking, 'cause I don't propose to have everybody see what I cook. I have learned a heap at this meeting here to-day. Let sardines and snuff and candy and red ribbons alone. Get your man to buy land, just one acre at a time, if he can't buy more than that, and then have him work it. Some of you men jest want to put us women into the white folks' kitchens to work to feed you, while you walk up and down the roads."

Each delegate who came to the Conference of

Womanly Sense.

If a person is ill and needs a medicine, is it not wise to get one that has stood the test of time, and has hundreds of thousands of cures to its credit?

A great many women who are ill try everything they hear of. This seems to us unwise, for there are remedies which are no experiments, and have been known years and years to be doing great good. Take for instance **Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound**; for thirty years its record has been one unbroken chain of success. No medicine for female ills this country has ever known has such a record for cures.

We have published more genuine testimonial letters than have ever been published in the interest of any other medicine. All this should, and does, produce a spirit of confidence in the hearts of women which is difficult to dislodge, and when they are asked to take something else they say, "No, we want **Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound**, which has been tried, and never found wanting, whose reliability is established far beyond the experimental stage." (See offer below.)



Letters to Mrs. Pinkham from Women.

Female Weakness 15 Years.

"DEAR MRS. PINKHAM:—For fifteen years I suffered with every form of female weakness, and had almost given up hope of ever being well again, when a friend insisted that I try Lydia E. Pinkham's medicine. I took four bottles of the Vegetable Compound, and still I was sick and giving up again when the same friend prevailed upon me to try another bottle. I did so and began to get better right away, and now I never have any of my old pains, and consider myself cured. I think your remedies the best in the world for curing the troubles of women, and feel very thankful that I ever found such remedies. If any suffering woman wishes to write to me privately, I will be pleased to tell her about the benefits I derived from the use of your medicine."—Mrs. E. F. MARSHALL, 312 Montcalm St., San Francisco, Cal.

General Weakness of System.

"DEAR MRS. PINKHAM:—I write to thank you for the good Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound and Blood Purifier have done me. I felt tired and all worn out, suffered with severe pains in my back and limbs. Since taking your remedies that tired feeling is gone, and I am very much better, and able to work. I would advise all suffering women to write to you, for I feel sure they will find help. I wish you much success."—Mrs. MARY H. LOVE, Hillsboro, Va.

Mrs. Pinkham's advice is given free to all suffering women. Her address is Lynn, Mass.

Throbbing Pain in the Back.

"DEAR MRS. PINKHAM:—About two years ago I was taken suddenly with a terrible bearing down feeling, low down across me, and such a throbbing pain in my back, that at times it would seem that I could endure it no longer. I had heard Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound spoken of very highly, and I commenced taking it at once. After a short time, I was feeling very much better, but continued its use until I had taken six bottles, and was completely cured."—Mrs. S. E. WADE, Fremont, Mich.

These grateful letters from women prove conclusively that woman's safe refuge when sick is

Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound

If you are a sick woman, fill out the following blank, and send it to Mrs. Pinkham:

A woman can talk freely to a woman when it is revolting to relate her private troubles to a man. Especially can she do so to a woman whose knowledge and experience in treating woman's ills is so great. The one thing that qualifies a person to give advice on any subject is experience—experience creates knowledge. No other person has so wide an experience with female ills nor such a record of success as she has had.

Full name _____
 Street No. _____
 Town _____ State _____
 County _____
 Age _____ Married, single _____
 Have you any female weakness? _____
 What is its nature? _____
 Weakness of how long standing? _____
 Are you confined to bed? _____
 How long have you suffered? _____
 Have you children? _____
 Do you have painful periods? _____
 Have you leucorrhoea (whites)? _____
 Ever pregnant? If so had you easy labor? _____
 Have you profuse menstruation? _____
 Scanty menstruation? _____
 Suppressed menstruation? _____
 Have you displacement? _____
 Anteversion? Prolapsus? _____
 Retroversion? _____
 Are you afflicted with sterility or barrenness? _____
 Dizzy, faint, or blind spells? _____
 Suffer from headache? _____
 Are your bowels constipated? _____

Are your bowels loose? _____
 Are you subject to palpitation? _____
 Are you subject to pain in heart? _____
 Have you good appetite? _____
 Does food seem to digest well? _____
 Do dots dart before your eyes? _____
 Do your feet and limbs swell? _____
 Troubled with cold feet and hands? _____
 Are you despondent? _____
 Does back of your neck ache? _____
 Do you have sore places in your spinal column? _____
 If so, where? _____
 Have you sore spot across back between hips? _____
 Do your lower limbs ache? _____
 Backache between the hips? _____
 Have you pain across abdomen, with soreness or pressure? _____
 Does abdomen bloat? _____
 Have you piles? _____
 Is urine high color? _____
 Sediment in urine on standing? _____
 Back weak? Where? _____
 Ever had surgical operations? _____
 For what? _____

Without money or price any woman can have a private letter giving complete details as to her health, if she will carefully answer the above questions and send them with a personal letter to Mrs. Pinkham.

Address "Mrs. Pinkham," Lynn, Mass. 3

1900 was given a printed list of things to remember and practice during the coming year—one for the men and another for the women.

You Need One

every day, hard rubber, screw section FOUNTAIN PEN at factory price, 35 cts. Order now by mail. C. E. CARSON & CO., DETROIT, MICH.

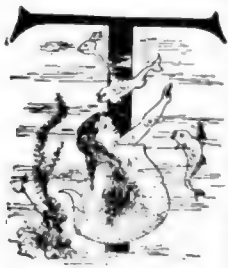
HELP WANTED MALE

particulars. State your name, address, age and present occupation. Postoffice Box 802, Chicago, Ill.

ONE OF THE LARGEST AGENCY CONCERNS IN THE COUNTRY offering a PAYING and PERMANENT opportunity to active men desiring to place additional men in every state of the Union. Send 2-cent stamp for book containing full

PLANTING THE OCEAN.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



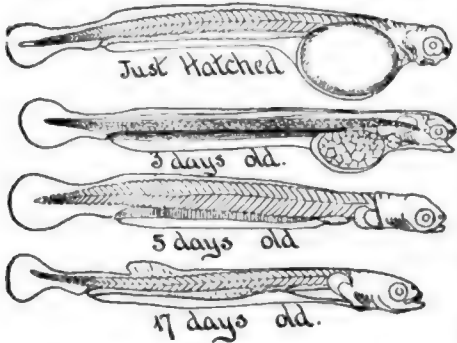
THE notion of planting and raising crops of fishes, just as if they were an agricultural product, seems extremely odd, and yet that is exactly what is done nowadays with shad. So completely is the output of shad under human control that, if it were so desired, the tidal rivers of this country could be literally crowded with them.

For a long time the winter habits of the shad were regarded as a perplexing puzzle. Of course, they are ocean fishes, entering the streams every year only for the purpose of reproducing their species. The question was, what did they do with themselves while in the sea? It was imagined that they betook themselves to southern waters during the cold season, and that at the approach of spring they began a migration northward, some of them entering the Potomac to spawn, others keeping on up the coast to the Delaware and to the Connecticut, and others yet continuing their passage to the rivers of Maine. This notion, however, has been proved erroneous.

It is now known that shad never go very far from the mouth of the rivers in which they were hatched. They spend the winters probably in the deeper waters near to and tempered by the G. I. Stream, which flows from the tropics northward. Annually, at spawning time, they return to their native streams. Mrs. R. O. E. Shad, for example, was born in the Potomac, not far from Washington. In order to reproduce her species, she is obliged to go up the river each spring and lay her eggs in a spot where they can be conveniently fertilized and hatched. Having performed this maternal function, she returns to the sea, unless she is so unfortunate as to be caught and eaten. It is not likely that she ever enters any stream other than the Potomac.

The shad browse on the ocean bottom, where there is unlimited provender, and, inasmuch as the sea will support any number of them, there is practically no limit to the multiplication of the species by artificial propagation. It is simply a question of gathering the eggs, which are readily obtainable in countless millions, hatching them in glass jars, and dumping the little fishes into the rivers, after retaining them for a short time in enclosed ponds, so that they may be big enough to take care of themselves when liberated. Swimming up the streams each spring, they fetch the crops of the ocean bottom, otherwise inaccessible to man, and deliver them in the shape of toothsome meat and roe.

The principal stations for collecting and hatching shad eggs are on the Potomac, the Susquehanna, and the Delaware. Agents of the United States Fish Commission go out in the fishermen's boats, and, as the nets are drawn, they take the female fishes and express the roes from them by passing the hand deftly over the body of each specimen, so that the eggs are poured into glass vessels, where they are immediately fertilized with milt similarly obtained from the male fishes. To save expert labor, efforts have been made to teach the fishermen how to procure and fertilize the eggs, and with such success that now more than half of the



Potomac shad eggs hatched each year are sold ready fertilized to the Commission by fishermen.

The Commission pays \$20 per million for such eggs—a fair price, considering that the average shad will supply 25,000 of them. On receiving a batch of eggs from a fisherman, they are placed in a receptacle through which a stream of water runs, so that all bad eggs and refuse are floated off, and the residue, if in good condition, is measured twenty-four hours later and paid for. Inasmuch as shad eggs are all just the same size, they are most readily counted by liquid measurement. In order to make sure that the eggs thus purchased are fertile, a number of them are examined under a microscope. The eggs are hatched in from four to ten days, according to the temperature of the water, and are either shipped on the Commission's cars to various points for distribution, or else are first hatched and the new born fishes consigned to the streams. Nearly all of the shad are distributed in the shape of young "fry."

The method of hatching shad eggs is wonderfully simple. They are put into glass jars, through which, by a siphon arrangement, a stream of water is kept continually running. The gentle stream keeps the eggs perpetually agitated, so that they are bathed on all sides with water and escape contact with any foulness that might injure them. They are very delicate, and are subject to fungus parasites and other troubles when not properly manipulated. Shad eggs are somewhat bigger than buckshot, white and translucent. As soon as the young "fry" emerge, they find their way out of the jar with the running water into a large tank, from which they are scooped with gauze nets as they are wanted.

A shad egg is much like a hen's egg in the notion governing its structure, but, whereas the unborn chick, growing from the germ-spot on one side of the yolk, first feeds on the white of the egg and then on the yolk, coming out only after it has consumed both, the embryo shad, when it comes into the world, has the yolk of its egg still attached to its belly, being provided in fact with a week's rations in advance, so that it may look around at convenient leisure for a living. Looking at a shad

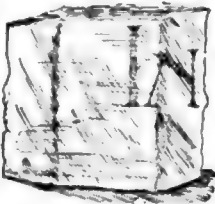
egg three days old under a microscope, one can see distinctly not only the eyes, but also the backbone, and the heart itself pulsating visibly.

A shad egg is a spherical capsule filled with albuminous matter, the envelope being composed of very thin transparent membrane, perforated by a single minute opening. In the center of this little globe is a nucleus which represents the germ of life, only requiring impregnation by the male principle. The milt of the male shad, as seen under the microscope, is full of spindle-shaped polywogs, which are exceedingly lively in action. It is only necessary that one of them shall find its way into the egg in order to render the latter fertile. The opening in the egg is so small that only a single polywog can pass through at one time, and, as quickly as one has entered, it closes up. Presently the intruding polywog is observed to lose its spindle shape, and is transformed into a nucleus resembling that of the egg. The two nuclei approach each other and blend into a single germ-cell, and with that joining the life of the future fish may be said to begin. The new-formed cell divides itself into two, the two into four, the four into eight, and so on, the doubling process continuing until very soon the result begins to be recognizable as a young fish.

It is very interesting to watch a jar in which the shad eggs have begun to hatch. Perhaps there will be twenty thousand eggs in the receptacle, and, as all of them ripen at about the same time, the hatching goes on at a pretty rapid rate, so that every moment one sees a tiny fish emerge from its capsule. The latter, being heavier than water, sinks to the bottom of the jar, while the fish rises toward the top and is sucked out through a tube into the tank beyond. At the hatching stations the jars are run in batteries, hundreds of them together, and the multiplication of the species goes on at a rate which might well cause conservative old Dame Nature to blink with astonishment. Since 1881, by means of artificial propagation, the shad output of the Atlantic coast rivers has been increased from eighteen million pounds to forty-five million pounds per annum.

HOW ICE IS HARVESTED.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



ALL the Northern States and Canada each winter a crop is harvested which entails more discomfort during the process of storing and brings more comfort to the consumer than any other product of the North. There is scarcely a pond or lake within reasonable distance of city or town

that has not its icehouses; an account of the business carried on at these storehouses may interest the readers of COMFORT.

The accompanying illustration gives an excellent idea of the ordinary icehouse. These houses are built of wood; the walls double, and the space between filled with tannery bark or sawdust, thus keeping the warm air out when summer comes. On the left can be seen the run over which the ice passes on its way from the water to the house. Within the shed beneath this run is the engine which furnishes the power for hauling the ice.

Somewhere far out in the middle of the lake is the block of ice which is to reach your freezer some hot July morning, and of a morning in December, January or February, the icemen set about to secure it, together with thousands of similar blocks.

First of all, a machine similar to a harrow in appearance, called a marker, is drawn across the ice, following a perfectly straight line, each trip producing a new line. Across these lines others are made in a similar manner, marking off the cakes of ice into squares about forty-four inches each way.

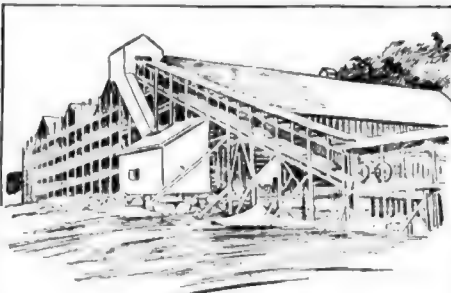
Following the marker comes a saw that looks somewhat like a plough from the distance, only that instead of the share, a saw with teeth two inches deep, making an incision of four inches. Close upon the heels of the man who drives this saw, follows another saw which cuts two inches deeper; another following this one, which completes the work of sawing out the blocks.

Immediately before the ice-run an opening is made in the ice by sawing out a dozen blocks with a large handsaw, these being sent up over the run and stored as the first of the harvest. One by one the nearest blocks are now broken off by the use of steel pikes and floated to the foot of the run, where they are slipped into the pockets of the endless chain which carries them away.

Gradually the opportunity for more men to take part in the work comes to pass; faster and faster the ice is broken away from the main field and sent in a continuous stream over the run.

Within the house all is life and action as soon as the work of sending has fairly commenced on the lake. If it is a large house, twenty or thirty men carrying long poles with a steel pike and hook at one end, await the arrival of the blocks of ice as they come shooting across the house. Kept moving, the ice is easy to handle, but allowed to pause for an instant before reaching its place, the work is greatly hindered.

If the ice is twelve inches thick, each block



STORAGE FOR ICE.

will weigh in the neighborhood of seven hundred pounds, and the work of handling them is attended with danger. Frequently accidents occur; a misstep, and a limb is broken, or a life crushed out; the men understand the danger, and are not slow to leap out of the path of

CLOTHING SALESMEN WANTED



\$150.00 PER MONTH AND EXPENSES MADE BY ALL OUR MEN. WE WANT MEN IN EVERY COUNTY IN THE UNITED STATES. IF YOU ARE SATISFIED, WE WILL START YOU AT ONCE. NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY. NO CAPITAL REQUIRED. We furnish a full line of samples, stationery, etc., and tailor-made suits complete outfit ready for business. NO COMMISSION PLAN. You regulate your own hours. NO HOME TO HOME CANYON. This is not one of the many ordinary advertisements for agents, but one of the very few advertisements of a big opportunity to secure a strictly high grade employment at BIG WAGES.

WE ARE THE WORLD'S LARGEST TAILORS. We are the largest American and European mills. We control the entire output of several of these mills. We own our materials at the lowest possible cost, and operate the most extensive and economic tailoring plant in existence, and cut to measure and make to order suits and overcoats from \$5.00 to \$15.00 (mostly \$5.00 to \$10.00). Pants from \$1.50 to \$3.00. Fancy Vests from \$1.00 up. The days of ready-made clothing are numbered. AT THESE PRICES everyone will prefer to have his garments cut to his measure and made to his order. NO DIFFICULTY IN GETTING ORDERS.

OUR PLAN. If your references are satisfactory we start you at once. We furnish you with a complete outfit including SAMPLE BOOK AND OUTFIT. Our large handsomely illustrated Sample Book contains our entire line of fashions, Overcoats, Trousers, Suits and Vestings full instructions for taking measurements, and you can learn in 5 minutes from the large photographic illustrations in the book, colored lithographed fashion plates, full descriptions of the material underneath each sample, and prices. You fill in, fixing your profit to suit yourself. This sample book is put up in a fine Canvas Carrying Case, which also contains Tape Measure, Order Blank, Business Cards, Stationery, Advertising Matter and Agents' Guide, and Instruction Book, with Set of Continental Price List, also complete "Salesman's Talk." Our instructions are so plain, our suggestions are so thorough, that anyone can immediately make a success of the work. NO REQUIRE NOTHING. Just take the orders and send them to us; we make the garments promptly and send them by express, C. O. D. subject to examination, and if not perfectly satisfactory they can be returned to us at no cost to you. WE TAKE ALL THE CHANCES OF THE TRADE.

our expense. Neither the agent nor his customer assume the slightest risk. WE TAKE ALL THE CHANCES OF THE TRADE. If you wish to make \$5.00 to \$20.00 EVERY DAY out this notice out and mail to us at once, giving us the name of two or more men as references.

YOU CAN ADD A LIBERAL PROFIT TO YOUR CONFIDENTIAL PRICE. NEARLY ALL OUR MEN MAKE \$40.00 EVERY WEEK IN THE YEAR.

THE OUTFIT IS ABSOLUTELY FREE. We make no charge for our complete Agents' Sample Book and Outfit, but in order to protect ourselves against many who might impose on us by sending for the outfit (which costs us between \$5.00 and \$6.00), with no intention of working, but merely out of idle curiosity, we require each applicant to cut this ad out and mail it to us, giving the names of at least two parties as references, and further agree to pay a temporary deposit of One Dollar and express charges for the outfit when received. If found equally as represented and really a big money maker. While this annual deposit of \$1.00 for the outfit is not one-fifth of its cost it insures the good faith of applicants, and we promptly refund your \$1.00 as soon as your sales amount to \$25.00, which amount you can take the first day out.

IF YOU WISH TO MAKE \$5.00 TO \$20.00 EVERY DAY out this notice out and mail to us at once, giving us the name of two or more men as references.

REFERENCES: Corn Exchange National Bank, Any Express or Railroad Co., Any business man or resident of Chicago.

AMERICAN WOOLEN MILLS CO. West Side Enterprise Bldg., CHICAGO, ILL. (This Company is thoroughly reliable—Editor.)

the swiftly moving cake.

Layer upon layer the ice is stored away and among the blocks is the lump of winter which is destined to reach your freezer of a summer's day.

The facilities for securing the ice crop vary at the different houses. Some have very primitive arrangements, holding to machinery and methods used several decades ago. Naturally, the crop is slowly taken care of, and not infrequently warmer weather brings the work to an abrupt close. Others, more progressive, are thoroughly up-to-date, using the most improved machinery and tools. It goes without saying, that when the ice season is short, the latter are the ones who are most successful.

The men employed for the most part are from the army of the unemployed, those who find work dull when the ice season is on. The pay is small; generally a dollar and a half a day for the men employed on the lake, and two dollars for those engaged in storing the ice.

DO YOU PLAY THE VIOLIN?

If so try our new importation of Violin Strings, from one of the best Makers in Europe. Full set of four strings, A. E. G. D. or of any letter for only 10 cents. Stamps or Silver.

GOLDEN MOMENTS, Augusta, Maine.

100% Profit. Selling the most up to date and fastest selling bicycle article of the season. Retail for 15 cents. Send 20 cents to prepaid charges and we will send full size sample and agents' terms. Griswold & Knapp, 504 West Nineteenth St., Providence, R.I.

\$8. SILK SKIRT BEST TAFETTA. Any Color FREE. Agents Wanted. Send 4c. in stamps for Silks and information. Box 6, HAZEL MFG. CO., Watertown, N.Y.

Spanish Mauser Rifles and Carbines in complete first-class serviceable order, captured in late war. 10,000 sold to us by U. S. Government, with five million ball cartridges in lot. Before exporting, we offer limited number at \$10.00 each, packed for shipment. Cartridges, \$3.00 per one hundred. F. Bannerman, 579 Broadway, New York, Dealer in Military Goods and War Relics.

AGENTS—MARVELOUS LEWIS-HARNES INVENTION. Astonishing money saver, complete repair shop in one tool; every horse owner buys, failure impossible. Agents selling one to two dozen daily. Our free offer surprises everybody. Write for sample and catalogue of fast selling specialties free. Address A. H. LEWIS MFG. CO., MILWAUKEE, WIS.

\$2.47 AMERICAN WATCH. Cut this out and send address and we will send you C. O. D. for examination. EXPRESS ALL PAID one beautiful 14k gold plated watch, stem wind and set. A guaranteed time-keeper. Boys' or Gent's size. Equal in appearance to a \$30 gold filled watch; warranted for 20 years. If satisfied pay agent \$2.47 Ladies' or Misses' size Watch, EXPRESS PAID \$2.00. Write to H. S. CO., 107 State St., Chicago.

WE PAY CASH. \$10.00 to \$25.00 per week easily earned. Agents wanted everywhere. Girls and Boys you can earn pay after school hours. CASH is better than imitation jewelry and fake prizes. It will buy you anything you want. You take NO RISK whatever. NO MONEY REQUIRED. We furnish everything. All we ask is good references as to character. Write for full particulars. THE ALPINE MFG. CO., 215 West 30th St., New York City.

A GRAND Household Outfit FREE.

Any one can learn to repair their tinware in fifteen minutes with our new and improved Handy Soldering Set. This new Set has full directions how to work it to the best advantage and you can save enough in one day by using this Set to keep one in Boots and Shoes for six months. Everything necessary to repair all kinds of tinware or used to put up canned fruits etc., comes with this set and we will send a Set to you free, all charges paid, if you enclose \$5. for one year subscription. Address SUNSHINE, Augusta, Maine.

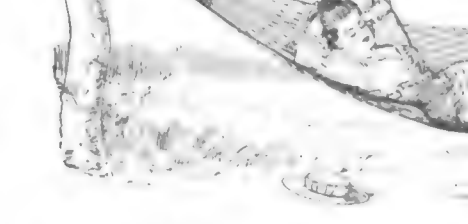
Sent Free to Everybody!

The COMFORT HAMMOCK.

As a Reward for a little friendly service.

BOYS AND GIRLS:

Here's a happy hint for Summer, And verily it is a "hummer."



We have 17,300 strong, perfect, Oriental, shall place on the Free List, upon the conditions specified below. This will enable every one who is willing to render us a little service, to secure one absolutely free. These Hammocks are over a foot long, every one is tested to carry 300 lb. dead weight. It is supplied with strong, white metal rings at the ends.

No home, picnic, camping, or outing party is complete without one. To recline in one of these health-giving articles in some cool nook after the day's work is done, or on a Sunday afternoon, is to repose in the lap of luxury.

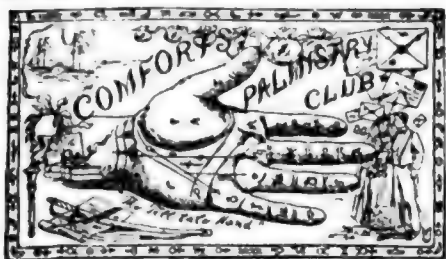
Now to every one who will get a club of 4 subscribers for this paper at the special trial price, 25 cents per year each in advance, we will send one of these Hammocks FREE, we paying all express and mailing charges. By showing a copy of this great paper to your neighbors, friends and acquaintances, you can easily get a club in one evening; for with its many improvements and new original copyrighted departments, now needs only to be seen to be appreciated. To those who do not care to go to the trouble of getting a club, we will send our paper for one year, together with one of these Hammocks (all express and mailing charges paid by us) upon receipt of 97 cts.

Hammocks, which for the next sixty days we shall place on the Free List, upon the conditions specified below. This will enable every one who is willing to render us a little service, to secure one absolutely free. These Hammocks are over a foot long, every one is tested to carry 300 lb. dead weight. It is supplied with strong, white metal rings at the ends.

No home, picnic, camping, or outing party is complete without one. To recline in one of these health-giving articles in some cool nook after the day's work is done, or on a Sunday afternoon, is to repose in the lap of luxury.

Now to every one who will get a club of 4 subscribers for this paper at the special trial price, 25 cents per year each in advance, we will send one of these Hammocks FREE, we paying all express and mailing charges. By showing a copy of this great paper to your neighbors, friends and acquaintances, you can easily get a club in one evening; for with its many improvements and new original copyrighted departments, now needs only to be seen to be appreciated. To those who do not care to go to the trouble of getting a club, we will send our paper for one year, together with one of these Hammocks (all express and mailing charges paid by us) upon receipt of 97 cts.

Address, COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.



CONDUCTED BY DIGITUS.

CONDITIONS.

To have one's hands read in this department, by Digitus, one of the finest living palmists, it is necessary to observe the following conditions:

Impressions of both hands must be sent, fully postpaid and having the name, address and name of place of the sender enclosed in the package also.

The package must in every instance be accompanied by the names and addresses of eight new subscribers at twenty-five cents each, the whole amount, \$2.00 being remitted, with the package, addressed to COMFORT PALMISTRY CLUB, Augusta, Maine.

No notice will be taken of impressions and requests for readings unless the sender has fully complied with the above conditions.

To take impressions, first hold two large pieces of blank paper over a candle or similar flame, until they are heavily coated with the smoke. Then lay these pieces down, smoke side uppermost on a pad of cotton. Now place the two hands, palms downward, one on each sheet of paper, pressing firmly and steadily down, but taking care not to move the hands. Keep them so for one minute and lift carefully, so as not to disturb the impression. Have ready some flat, which can be bought at a drug store or an art store or made with gum arabic and water in an atomizer. Spray this over the impressions before they are moved and allow them to dry. Then they are ready to send.

Smoked paper impressions are the best. But if it is desired to send a plaster cast, take plaster of Paris and dissolve in water to the consistency of thick cream. Pour this into a large shallow dish and when it is hardening place the hand, well-greased, palm downward, in the plaster, pressing downward. Several minutes will be required to get this impression and great care must be taken in removing the hand, not to break the plaster. Casts are exceedingly difficult to send without breaking and should be very carefully packed in a box with the name of the sender written on it. Putty is sometimes successfully used in place of plaster. A good photograph if sufficiently well taken to bring out all the lines, can also be read, although in all cases the smoked paper is the best, if properly treated with flat.

Bear in mind that all the above conditions must be observed.

Also, that letters not complying with them will go into the waste-basket. Readings cannot appear for several months after impressions are sent.

BEFORE taking up the reading of the hand, I will go on with the instructions which we started last month with regard to the lines of the hand. I have so many questions that this seems to be an answer to many general ones with regard to the triangle. The triangle should be formed in the palm, or more properly called the plain of Mars, by junction of the head, life and health lines. If the health line is absent from the hand, a line must be drawn from base of life line to mount of Mercury. This angle is divided into three angles; upper at intersection of head and life line; inner angle, at line of head and health; lower angle at junction of health and life. Well formed and clear with pointed upper angle, is good luck and long life; badly formed shows a cowardly nature; sometimes when imperfect early in life, it will improve at maturity, showing that health is improved; a cross in triangle is an evil disposition; a crescent, a capricious, fretful nature; a crescent joined to line of head, violent death caused by imprudence; crescent joined to line of health gives power; a star in triangle gives riches obtained at expense of health; the upper angle clear and sharp denotes refinement; blunt, a dull intellect; extremely pointed, envy, great finesse. Inner angle well defined, long life and intelligence; obtuse or blunt, uncouth; the lower angle not quite closed, good health; a coarse line with many rays, rude and lazy.

The quadrangle, the square defined between head and line of heart, under first and fourth fingers, should be of good width; not narrowing in the middle, but wide through its extent; it signifies folly; much filled with little lines, a weak nature; here we look for the croix mystique. A well-colored, well-formed star indicates truth and honor easily led by fair means, and such subjects make fortunes by their own merit; a line from this to mount of Mercury betokens patronage from those in power.

Close attention must be paid to signs in the palm. These signs are: A star is an event beyond our control, unavoidable and generally a danger, but whether good or bad depends on the line. When on line of fate it always means something important. We have already noted the signs of a star on the mounts: on the mount of Jupiter with a cross it is a marriage of high position; on the mount of Saturn, a great fatality; on the mount of Apollo, wealth with happiness; on mount of Mercury, theft and dishonesty in all things; on mount of Mars, violence and homicide; on mount of Moon, hypocrisy; at the base of the mount of Venus, misfortune by opposite sex; on the phalange of any finger, especially Saturn, is good luck; on third phalange of finger of Saturn, danger of assassination.

The square denotes power and protection; a square found enclosing a star is always a protection from the evil threatened; a square with red spot at each corner is protection from fire. It has but one evil significance when on mount of Venus close to life line; that is a warning of imprisonment of some sort.

A spot on a line denotes a malady or wound. The circle is rarely seen and has but one significance; when on mount of Apollo it means success; on any line it denotes a weakness of the organs.

The triangle denotes aptitude for science; on Jupiter diplomatic ability; on Saturn, occult sciences; on Apollo, science in art; on Mercury, a good politician; on Mars, science in warfare, a good general; and on mount of Venus greatly interested in love.

The cross indicates change of position in life and has already been noted in the lessons on the mounts and lines; the croix mystique is found only in the quadrangle. Its proper place is under the finger of Saturn; it emphasizes the qualities of

that finger and mount; if joined to the line of fate, it foretells honors and good fortune in religious efforts and high attainments.

The grille indicates obstacles through the faults of a line or mount on which it is placed.

A correspondent from North Carolina asks if she may send the hands of several children to be read. I do not care to read the hands of children under fifteen, as in the case of growing children the lines are constantly changing and except with the principal lines, none of them are fixed. Cheiro has always said that he would read the hand of a new born baby, but not again until the child was at least twelve years old. You may send the hands of your children of fifteen or over.

"W. H. S., Jr." sends two small photographs of hands which were read in the October, 1899 number. Will he please explain what he wants done with these?

"Miss C. E. J." writes from one of the southern states asking about the reading of her hands. They were read in the January number under the initials of M. E. J. which she will please look up.

"Philippa" sends a very well-taken hand on which the lines stand out with beautiful clearness. Her life line is not as good as I could wish in the right hand, although it is much better in the left. It shows that she is very ambitious and high minded and that she will be very successful in all that she undertakes. She will be protected from some trouble or evil when she is about thirty, a square appearing both on the life and the fate line at that age. She has some special gifts as an artist or musician and will have good luck if she takes up platform work of any kind. She will have a fine career, having a life line that sweeps all before it, which is accomplished by a splendid line of Apollo. She will meet with some opposition and some trouble between the ages of twenty and thirty-five, but her splendid courage and perseverance will carry her victorious through everything and she will live to be known and honored far and wide for her many good qualities and her exceptional talents. She will marry, not far from twenty-five or thirty, and that marriage will last some fifteen years or perhaps a little more, when it will be broken off suddenly, causing her considerable grief at the time. She will rise superior to it, however, and after that will win fame and riches. She will have more or less trouble from affairs of the heart but these will not in any way impede her real success in life. A decided change will come into her life about the age of forty to forty-five, which will be for the better. I cannot say just what it will be, but there is something quite marked in store at that age. Hers is a very positive character and she is of a decided makeup. She knows her own mind and will not be afraid to speak it. She is perhaps lacking a little in tact, but her good qualities are such that she will make friends in spite of this lack. The lines on the ends of her fingers are decidedly peculiar and worthy the study of Mark Twain, Puddin' Head Wilson. On the whole hers is a very fortunate hand, signifying honor, a fine reputation, wealth, marriage and many journeys, which will be successful in their nature.

The hands sent by "Safety" are so badly blurred that it is impossible to read them. Will she send another set and endeavor to get them in better shape for reading? In the mean time I will hold these until I hear from her.

Digitus

Do You Want a Buggy?

If you have any use for a fine open or top buggy, surrey, phaeton or spring wagon at the lowest price ever heard of, a price that will surprise you, privilege of free trial and payable after received, cut this notice out and mail to SEARS, ROEBUCK & CO., Chicago, Ill., and they will mail you their very latest and extremely interesting vehicle offer and special catalogue.

MUSIC GIVEN AWAY.

One hundred and twenty-five Favorite Song Jewels. A large book of music containing words and score of the latest popular songs sung in the theaters and churches everywhere. Comic, Sentimental, Pathetic and Religious. This great collection would cost from \$15 to \$20 in the usual sheet music form. The best collection for home and concert use ever published. We will give the book as a FREE present to any person sending us six cents in stamps for a trial three months' subscription to our sparkling, monthly paper which we are introducing into 100,000 new homes this season.

SUNSHINE, Augusta, Maine.

LADIES! Make Big Wages

—AT HOME—
and will gladly tell you all about my work. It's very pleasant and will really pay \$15 weekly. I will send you two dollars of my money and will gladly and full particulars to all sending 2c. stamp. MRS. A. H. WIGGINS, Box 9, Boston Harbor, Mass.



SEND NO MONEY. Simply send your stamp & address & we will send you two dollars of our money. Fully engraved link bracelet with lock & key. 1 bracelet, very fine & stylish. 1 pair link cuff. 1 pair link bracelet. All of these 1 article are 100% gold plated & the latest style. This is the best offer in this paper. We run all the risk & will take back what you cannot sell. We will send you an extra beautiful solid gold plated ring, set with a simulated diamond or Ruby free, if you will write today. Don't let the others get ahead of you. RICHMOND CO., Dept. 110, St. Louis, Mo.

HAIR SWITCH 65 CENTS.

WE SELL HUMAN HAIR SWITCHES to match any hair at from 65c to \$3.25, the equal of switches that retail at \$5.00 to \$8.00.

OUR OFFER: Cut this ad out and send to us. Enclose a good sized sample of the exact shade wanted, and cut it out as near the roots as possible. Enclose our special price quoted and 5 cents extra to pay postage, and we will make the switch to match your hair exact, and send to you by mail, postpaid, and if you are not perfectly satisfied, return it and we will immediately refund your money.

OUR SPECIAL OFFER PRICE AS FOLLOWS: 2-oz. switch, 20-in. long, long stem, 65c; short stem, 90c; 3-oz. 22-in. long, short stem, \$1.25; 3-oz. 22-in. long, short stem, \$1.50; 3-oz. 24-in. long, short stem, \$2.25; 3-oz. 26-in. long, short stem, \$3.25. WE GUARANTEE IT WORKS THE HIGHEST GRADE on the market. Order at once and get these special prices. Your money returned if you are not pleased. Write for Free Catalogue of Hair Goods. Address, SEARS, ROEBUCK & CO. (Inc.) Chicago, Ill.

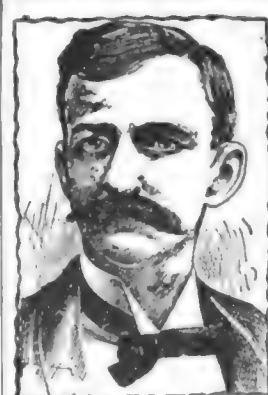
(Sears, Roebuck & Co. are thoroughly reliable. —Editor.)

DISEASE—A CRIME.

Prof. S. A. Weltmer, the Great Magnetic Healer, Demonstrates That All Disease Can Be Cured Without the Aid of Medicines or the Surgeon's Knife.

"WELTMER, THE MAN OF THE HOUR"

Prof. S. A. Weltmer, the eminent scientist of Nevada, Mo., who originated that Method of Magnetic Healing known as Weltmerism, and which is indorsed by both



PROF. WELTMER.

the press and the pulpit, has demonstrated that disease is a crime. In a recent interview he stated "A crime is a breach, whether a breach of moral principles, of law or of nature, it is still a crime. Now, disease is a breach of nature, brought on by either an abuse of nature or by not following nature's edict, and whether this breach be in commission or in omission, nature, like the State, demands a penalty. Now I wish to demonstrate that at the present time the existing of disease is a double-headed crime, first by its appearance, second by its continuation, for there is no disease, no matter how hopeless it may seem or of how long standing, that cannot be cured, therefore, to continue in disease is a crime, not only to oneself but to posterity yet to come. Now we have demonstrated by scientific researches that disease is a product produced by human hands, and is unnatural, therefore it can again be remedied by human hands. The reason that the method which I have originated has had such phenomenal success is because it acts in a perfectly natural manner, without the aid of either drugs or the surgeon's knife, by going to the very seat of the trouble, and placing the constitution in a robust condition, it cures all disease, no matter whether chronic or acute. Take for instance woman who in the majority of cases is placed upon the rack of torture, simply because those organs which make her a woman are in an unnatural condition, which nature and God meant them to be, thereby dispelling the pain and agony which so often comes with the monthly period; it also dispels all danger during that critical period known as change of life. In fact it is the only positive cure for all female troubles. Then,

again, take man in that weakened condition which is called manhood, and in my experience I have had thousands of men place themselves under my treatment who have been almost drugged to death by nostrums they saw advertised, and I am proud to say that I have been able to perfect a cure in every instance." We cannot but believe with Prof. Weltmer that to allow disease to continue is a crime. Our reason for coming to this belief is that it has now been demonstrated that there is a cure for all diseases. For Weltmerism has brought more severe tests than has any curative power known to man, and the fact that it has cured more than 100,000 men and women from every disease known, is positive proof that Weltmerism will cure when all else fails. The most remarkable features about Weltmerism, is that part known as the Absent Treatment, which annihilates space and cures disease, no matter at what distance the patient may live. We take great pleasure in publishing here a few of the many thousands of testimonials that are in the hands of Prof. J. H. Kelly, the eminent co-laborer of Prof. Weltmer: T. T. Rodas of Paris, Mo., the Prosecuting Attorney of Monroe County, suffered for years with Sciatic Rheumatism. Tried everything without benefit. Was instantly cured through Prof. Weltmer's Absent Treatment. Mr. C. R. Graham of Boise, Idaho, was afflicted for nine years with rheumatism; she could not walk without crutches or lift her hands to her head; she paid out \$3000 with doctors before coming to Nevada. She now proclaims herself cured and a happy woman, through Weltmerism. Mrs. D. H. Allen of Aurora Springs, Mo., was in a hopeless condition, as she suffered from consumption in its worst form. She could not sleep without the aid of morphine. Tried everything without relief. Fully restored by Prof. Weltmer's Absent Treatment. D. E. Alford of Rubens, Jewell County, Kan., suffered for three years with Kidney and Stomach troubles; tried the best medical authorities, but was told that his case was hopeless. Took Prof. Weltmer's Absent Treatment and in three days was cured. Mrs. Jennie L. Lynch, Lakeview, Mo., was for two years afflicted with ulceration of the womb, heart and stomach troubles and general debility; was reduced to a mere skeleton. After taking gallons of obnoxious medicines without relief, she tried the Weltmer Absent Treatment. In less than thirty days she was entirely relieved and gained fifteen pounds. Weltmerism is undoubtedly the greatest discovery of the age, and the Absent Treatment of this wonderful science is indeed a revelation, for through it Prof. Weltmer can reach all classes of people, no matter at what distance they live. By writing Prof. S. A. Weltmer, Nevada, Mo., you will receive, free of charge, The Magnetic Journal, a 40-page illustrated Magazine, and a long list of the most remarkable cures ever made.

TEACHES HIS METHOD TO OTHERS.

Prof. S. A. Weltmer the originator of this marvelous method, will teach the art to others how to cure every known disease without the aid of drugs or the surgeon's knife. Any one who desires to learn this noble profession. Anyone who learns can practice it. He has abundantly proven this by the large number of people who have been instructed by him and who are in the active practice of healing by his method. He will teach you in ten days, either by mail or personal instruction. His wonderful method, through which wealth and fame can be earned. Full instructions will be sent free of charge to anyone writing to Prof. J. H. Kelly, Sec'y, Nevada, Mo.

PROF. J. H. KELLY.



156 PIECE CHINA TEA & DINNER SET FREE

Full size for family use. Serviceable and Ornamental. You can get this if you take advantage of our offer sent to every person selling six packages of Fertilizer—a wonderful adobe Fertilizer for home plants, put up in tablet form, for use in water, makes plants bloom. If you agree to sell six packages of Fertilizer at 25c a package, write to-day we will mail same postpaid. When sold, send us the money, and 15 dozen full size silver-plated Forks. Also our offer of this handsome China Tea & Dinner Set. FERTILIZER CO., Dept. AYS, New Haven, Conn.

BEST PAYING THING for Agents is our PHOTO FAMILY RECORDS, OTHER PICTURES, PORTRAITS & FRAMES. Address Dept. 7 C. P. COLEY & CO. 41 & 43 Jefferson St., Chicago.

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CAN YOU arrange the 12 letters at the left into three names denoting THREE WELL-KNOWN ADMIRALS of the U. S. NAVY during the SPANISH WAR? If you can make out these names you may share in THE DISTRIBUTION OF 1200 DOLLARS WHICH WE ARE GIVING AWAY for doing a little work for us. This you can do in less than one hour of your time. This and other liberal offers are made to introduce one of the very best Boston Story Magazines into every home in the United States and Canada. WE DO NOT WANT ONE CENT OF YOUR MONEY. When you have made out your answer, write it plainly on a post card and send it to us, and you will hear from us promptly BY RETURN MAIL. It may take considerable study to get the three correct names, BUT STICK TO IT AND TRY AND GET YOUR SHARE OF THE 1200 DOLLARS. A COPY OF A CELEBRATED DOLLAR BOSTON MAGAZINE WILL BE SENT FREE to every one answering this advertisement. Send your answer immediately. Address: THE RICHIEY PUBLISHING COMPANY, 88 and 90 Purchase Street, BOSTON, MASS.

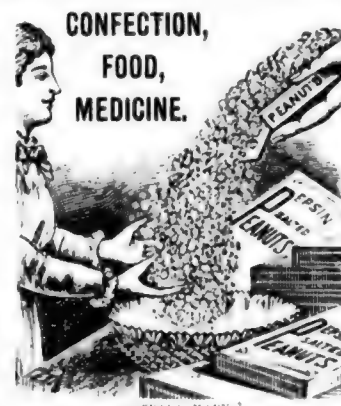
THE very best Boston Story Magazines into every home in the United States and Canada. WE DO NOT WANT ONE CENT OF YOUR MONEY. When you have made out your answer, write it plainly on a post card and send it to us, and you will hear from us promptly BY RETURN MAIL. It may take considerable study to get the three correct names, BUT STICK TO IT AND TRY AND GET YOUR SHARE OF THE 1200 DOLLARS. A COPY OF A CELEBRATED DOLLAR BOSTON MAGAZINE WILL BE SENT FREE to every one answering this advertisement. Send your answer immediately. Address: THE RICHIEY PUBLISHING COMPANY, 88 and 90 Purchase Street, BOSTON, MASS.

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\$5.00 SHAVING SET FREE

for selling only six of our Electric Razor. We want to prove there is a new prevention and cure for Lambs Back, Cuts, Chaps, Cold Sores, Eczema, Rheumatism, etc., and will send a sample of our Electric Razor which you can sell and return the money (\$5.00) to us and we will send you all charges paid, the elegant Shaving Set packed in a case eight inches long, six inches wide and five inches high. The combination consists of a Royal Swedish Razor, single value, \$3.00; 1 Gemme, Horseshoe, Double, Reversible, Canvas-back, Nickel-plated, Electric Shaver, \$1.00; 1 Best Blade, large handle, Lather Brush, 1 Cake Perfumed Lump Magenta; 1 Stick rich perfumed Cosmetics, making a grand \$5.00 combination. Every man should have an outfit in the house for emergency use. Every Woman should see to it that either her Father, her Husband, her Brother or her Sweetheart has one of these outfits. They make the best presents one can give to a gentleman. Don't wait but send to-day for Plasters. One agent sold the six in six minutes.

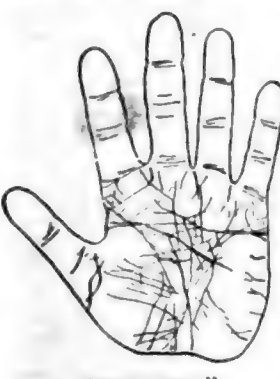
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Two Thousand Packages Shelled Peanuts SENT FREE.

SELL 12 PACKAGES AND GET A WATCH.

The art of shelling and salting peanuts has just reached perfection. As a confection they are peerless, as a food unequalled. German scientists have spent years experimenting with Peanut Flour. It is found to contain three times the nutrient of wheat, and whole salted peanuts, being so much more palatable than wheat, have also been found to be a slight addition of Pepain Salt to be a sure cure for Dyspepsia and other stomach, kidney and liver troubles. Yes, even persons with Bright's Disease or Diabetes can now be cured. It is only necessary for old or young to eat a few of our Pepain Salted Peanuts after meals to keep in perfect health—but they can also be eaten in any quantity as a confection without the least distress or trouble to the weakest stomach. Children delight to feast on them and they are much better than candy. They also cure Heart Burn and Insomnia. To Form Part of the Treat or Refreshments at party gatherings, societies, etc., they are indispensable, and to have them on the table as dessert is the best of form. Everyone, both old and young, now wants a few in the pocket at all times to nibble on—for with all the troubles oils properly treated as they are in our special process of Curing and Roasting Peanuts, they have at last lost all terrors to weak stomachs, and are warranted not to become rancid, and to keep well in any climate. FREE We will send two thousand packages of these Pepain Salted Peanuts out to respond-able parties who furnish proper references. You sell 12 ten-cent packages and FREE get a watch, a guaranteed good timekeeper. But to first introduce them quickly we send one package as a sample free to any one enclosing six cents for a three months' subscription to COMFORT. You can then test them and see how many packages you want to start with. No attention paid to first orders without trial or subscription. Write at once and be among the first to get the free packages. Address, COMFORT FOOD DEPT 7, Augusta, Maine.



"PHILIPPA."

changes change of position in life and has already been noted in the lessons on the mounts and lines; the croix mystique is found only in the quadrangle. Its proper place is under the finger of Saturn; it emphasizes the qualities of

Impressions of a Sailor of the Samoan Isles in 1839.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT



whose able leadership, this pioneer voyage was so successfully made, bringing to our traders and whalers reliable information upon which to base their voyages; and to the scientific world of the day knowledge of the wonders below the Antarctic circle as well as of the tropical islands towards which the eyes of the world are now turned.

"1839. October 12th. Commences clear and pleasant with light breezes. At 10 o'clock A. M. came up with the Island of Tutuila, one of the Navigator Islands, and at 4 o'clock came to anchor in Pango Pango Bay, south side of Tutuila.

October 13th. Commences clear and pleasant with a fine wind. Not a canoe is seen to ruffle the surface of this beautiful bay. It is the Sabbath here and everything is hushed and still. Weather fine and exhilarating. 10 o'clock divine service was performed by our Chaplain. The natives of the Navigators resemble those of the Society in their complexion and features, but there is material difference between their language. Their huts are built in the same shape and constructed of the same material. I saw many females engaged in the domestic occupations, such as making mats, tapa and fishing nets, etc. In some parts of the island polygamy is still practiced, but at this village it is openly discountenanced by all the chiefs and people. No man is allowed to have more than one wife. The missionaries, of course, have been the cause of abolishing this practice. The whole mass of the native population in this part of the island seem to be fast advancing to a state of civilization. Their minds seem high, susceptible of cultivation and a thirst for knowledge seems universal among them, especially at this village. The missionaries have made a great change in the morals of these people in a very short time. Mr. Murray is the missionary at this station; polished gentleman he is too. He is devoted to the missionary cause and indefatigable in his labors to ameliorate the condition of these poor savages. He has two flourishing schools here, in each about three hundred scholars. He is assisted by native teachers in each school whom he has taught since he came among them. His wife, Mrs. Murray, seems equally interested in the missionary cause and is at the head of a female seminary where she teaches the native women the mode of manufacturing their clothes and making straw bonnets, in which some of them have become quite proficient. I saw many of the natives dressed very neat in their own manufacture. They present quite a pleasing contrast to their neighbors, the "Devil Tribe," who reside only a short distance from them. This tribe has refused to receive instruction from the missionary and still remain in their primitive state and this only a few miles off; they never visit their Christian neighbors.

On the following Sunday, after our arrival, Mr. Murray preached on board this ship. He was accompanied by his wife and missionaries from other stations on the island.

October 25th. At 9 o'clock got underway and stood out to sea with a fine wind. At 11 o'clock the same day, land was reported from the masthead. This was a small, unimportant island which we passed without examining it.

October 22nd. Commences clear and pleasant. 10 o'clock, cloudy with frequent showers of rain. 11 o'clock, arrived off the northern end of the island and stood along the coast only a few miles from the land. At noon arrived off the harbor of Apia. Found our consort, the "Peacock" at anchor here and the missionary brig Campden. This is by far the most fertile and handsome island in the group. The land rises gradually from the seashore until it breaks into mountains and ridges which are covered with green verdure almost to their summit. The shore abounds in table lands beautifully sprinkled and variegated with clumps, groves and single trees of the breadfruit, pandanus and cocoanut trees forming thickly and deeply shaded bowers overhanging the habitations of the natives. Several villages are scattered along the coast with here and there the residence of a missionary and missionary chapel.

At 4 o'clock Capt. Wilkes and Purser Waldron left the ship for the Peacock, she having sailed from Pango Pango bay two days previous to us.

to us. October 28th. Commences with light winds and pleasant weather. Standing on and off the harbor of Apia, waiting orders from Capt. Wilkes, who is still absent from the ship. At 4 o'clock he returned and immediately after squared away and ran into harbor and came to anchor in 12 fathoms water.

November 3rd. Commences with pleasant breezes and fine weather. To-day Mr. Williams, missionary, preached a very eloquent and pointed sermon from the 19th chapter, 2nd verse of Proverbs. "Also, that the soul be without knowledge it is not good, and he that hasteneth with his feet sinneth." Mr. Williams is, so far as I am able to judge, a good preacher; he is at least a good orator. Mr. Williams was accompanied by his lady and several missionaries. After having taken of refreshments, which were prepared for them in the cabin, they visited the different parts of the ship in company with Capt. Wilkes, and returned on shore soon after.

On the following day we were visited by the Chief of the Christian party, accompanied by his wife and two fine, interesting girls, and a number of inferior chiefs and attendants. The principal chief is a man of middle stature, about thirty years of age and of copper color. He was attired in a round jacket made of blue cloth, pantaloons of the same, a white vest, white shirt and fur hat, with shoes, constituted his whole dress. His wife was dressed in a calico frock, straw bonnet, but wore no shoes. She was very large, prominent abdomen and rather obese. Her husband looked like a boy by her side. The two daughters were more gayly attired. They wore gingham frocks with waist ribbons and straw bonnets. The inferior chief and attendant wore no clothing, except a tapa around the loins. They behaved themselves much better than might have been expected of people so lately emerged from pagan darkness. After visiting the different parts of the ship they were entertained in the board room where a collation had been prepared for them. They ate heartily but used the wine sparingly.

On the following day the High Chief, attended by a number of inferior chiefs, dined in the cabin. They were attended by Mr. John Williams, Jr., as interpreter. Several "big guns" were fired, which somewhat alarmed him at the first fire. He made his way upon deck but was soon reconciled by Mr. Williams, who assured him that no harm would befall him. After, Capt. Wilkes and Capt. Hudson with several of the officers accompanied the King and chiefs on shore to the mission house, where from one to two thousand natives had assembled to witness the exercise of small arms of a party of our mariners and seamen, who had been sent on shore for that purpose, to the number of about one hundred and fifty men. I was astonished to see such an assemblage of natives, mostly dressed in the native costume, with no clothing but a piece of tapa around their loins. At first they crowded upon us very much, but at a signal from the old chief they retreated and took up their positions at a sufficient distance to allow us room for exercising, marching, firing, etc. Several rounds of blank cartridges were fired in regular order, which much pleased the natives.

On the same evening Mr. John Williams, Jr., was appointed American Consul or agent for the Samoa group and the American flag hoisted over his house.

This extensive and populous group is situated in the south Pacific Ocean, and extends four degrees east and west.

It was discovered on the 4th of May, 1678, by the French circumnavigator, Bougainville, who gave it the name it now bears, most probably on account of the superior construction of their canoes and their surprising dexterity in the water. The group is called by the natives Samoa, and consists of eight islands, Manua, Orogangi, Ofu, Tutuilla, Upolu, Manono, Aborima and Savaii. In addition to these there are several small islands off the coast of Tutuilla and Upolu. In the year 1788 this group was visited by the unfortunate La Parouse, whose colleague, M. de Langie, and a number of his men lost their lives by being barbarously murdered by the natives. This tragical act conveyed such an impression of their treachery and ferocity as deterred subsequent voyagers from returning among them and for many years appear not to have been visited by any vessel from the civilized world, until a very late period when a missionary station was established here and the Rev. Mr. Williams was among the number who first filled this station. Tutuilla or Tootooilla, the first of the Navigator Islands which was visited, is about fifteen miles from Orogangi west in 171 degrees west longitude and 14 degrees and 20 minutes south latitude. This is a fine, romantic island of from eighty to one hundred miles in circumference. It was here that the unfortunate M. de Langie lost his life, and on this account the bay in which he was murdered received the name of Massacre Bay. In passing down the coast you pass some fine bays, the most conspicuous is Pango Pango, in which our squadron rendezvoused while engaged in surveying this island. Into this bay vessels of almost any moderate size may run in and anchor there in perfect safety, except during a strong south gale.

Upolo, the next island in circumference is about one hundred to one hundred and twenty miles. The mountains on this island are very high and in clear weather may be seen fifty or sixty miles. These are richly covered with verdure to their summit, and in the north-east parts of the island they present a variety in their form and character, which in some situations renders their appearance romantic and sublime, in others soft, luxuriant and beautiful. It has been stated that there were no harbors in this group but at this island alone we found three and surveyed them. The one at Apia, in which we anchored, is commodious, spacious and safe, and as it faces to the north it admits, with the prevailing trade winds, of easy ingress and egress. The bottom is sandy and at twenty-five yards from the beach there is about five fathoms of water. A river runs into the bay so that any quantity of fresh water may be obtained of an excellent quality."

These were a sailor's impressions sixty years ago. Not a scientific but a wholesome, hearty American view of territory then so far away and really little known.

These were days of sails, not steam, and who could have believed at that day that any member of that expedition would survive to see this beautiful bay of Pango Pango an American harbor, a half-way station as it were, to our greater possessions in this vast Pacific.

And yet there are at least two men perhaps living, who were of this gallant six hundred who comprised the "Wilkes' Exploring Expedition," one, Thomas Sinclair of Oxford, Maryland, the owner of this journal from which I have drawn, and the other a New Englander who came to Maryland to talk over this momentous voyage with Mr. Sinclair in the summer of 1898.



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We send this Nickel-Plated Watch, also a Chain and Charm to Boys and Girls for selling 1½ dozen packages of **BLUINE** at 10c. each. Send your full address by return mail and we will forward the Blaine, postpaid, and a large Premium List.

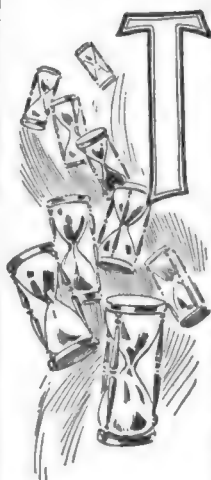
No money required. We send the Blaine at our own risk. You go among your neighbors and sell it. Send us the money that you get for it and we send you the Watch, Chain and Charm, prepaid.

This is an American Watch, Nickel-Plated Case, Open Face, Heavy Bevelled Crystal. It is Guaranteed to Keep Accurate Time, and with Proper Care should last ten years.

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The Old Reliable firm who sell honest goods and give Valuable Premiums.

CALENDAR ECCENTRICITIES.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT



THE fact that our earth revolves around the sun once in 365 days and a fraction has given our makers of calendars no end of trouble. It is the little fraction that makes all the bother. If this troublesome part of a day were exactly one-quarter, the matter could have been easily adjusted, as in the Julian calendar, by adding one day every four years. This extra day, by the way, was greatly feared by the Romans, for it was supposed to be sacred to the God of death, and in order to deceive this divinity they slipped it in between two other days, calling it "bisextillus." Hence the leap year came to be called a "bisextille".

The practice of adding one day every four years, however, made the year too long by 3 days in 400 years.

This was remedied to some extent in the Gregorian calendar. According to this, every fourth year was reckoned as a bisextile year, with the exception of the years at the beginning of each century. These were made to contain 365 days with the exception of the one at the beginning of every fourth century, which was called a leap year. Even this causes the years to vary to the extent of one day in 3400 years.

Now an ingenious mathematician comes forward, with a scheme for still further correcting this error. He proposes to call all years divisible by 4 leap years, except those divisible by 128. Though this is not exact, still the years would, under this plan of reckoning, be too short by only one day in 30,000 years; near enough for all practical purposes, we will all agree.

IT is said that the tortoise is not at all pleased to get caught out in the rain; twenty-four hours before rainfall, the tortoise will seek a convenient shelter and will not stir out until all is clear again. This presentation which often exists in many beasts and birds, may be partially explained from the increased weight of the atmosphere when rain is forming.



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SEARS, ROEBUCK & CO.,

(INC.) CHICAGO, ILL.

(Sears, Roebuck & Co. are thoroughly reliable - Editor.)



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Introduce our Vegetable Pills, a sure cure for constipation, indigestion & torpid liver, if you agree to sell only one box of Pills at \$5. etc. a box write to-day and we send Pills by mail, when sold send us the money & we send you a new constipated tea spoons together with our offer of a 14 piece dinner set same day money is received. This a liberal inducement every lady in the land & all who received the spoons & dinner set for selling our Pills are delighted.

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Prof. Oscar Gleason, the greatest horse owner, trainer and breaker that ever lived in America has written the most complete and valuable book on horses. We have made arrangements to publish this valuable work to all lovers of horses, and we call your attention to the great value of this unusual and valuable work. It is the most complete and stable in the land. It should be in every home and library. It is a book of 400 pages, bound in large handsomely bound book of over 400 pages, printed on pure white paper in large, clear type, illustrated with 186 full plates and elegantly drawn by special artist. It is the most complete work ever published, produced under the direction of the greatest horse expert, Veterinarian Surgeon. In this book Prof. Gleason has given to the world for the first time his wonderful knowledge of horses and breaking horses. It contains chapters on History, Training, Feeding, Breeding, Breaking, Taming, How to Detect Unsoundness, Care, Management of horses, and all the details of the animal. It is a complete library on horses in itself. Gleason's work is worth \$5.00 a volume and sold into homes where an interest is taken in horses by every person who will send thirty-three cents to pay for the book. You will get up a club of fifty two yearly **THE FARMER**, August, Maine.

Address **NATIONAL FARMER**, Augusta, Maine.

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CHICAGO, ILL.



CONDUCTED BY AUNT SARAH.



RAMEQUIN dishes were probably first used for serving various kinds of cheese dishes, but they are now as often used for serving meats, fish and puddings. Our initial shows a covered ramequin dish, which is

very pretty in coloring; those generally used for baking are uncovered, and cost five cents, but these covered ones are used where the food has already been cooked and is simply served in these dishes, which are easy to eat from, as the handle is convenient—quite different from the shells in which so many things are served, for the latter have a disagreeable way of sliding all over the plate, and there is nothing to hold them by. This difficulty is obviated somewhat, however, by serving the shells on a napkin or doiley, on a plate.

We give a recipe for chicken, to be cooked in the individual ramequin dishes, and served in the same.

Melt two tablespoons butter, cook in it two tablespoons flour, one-fourth teaspoon salt and a little pepper; then add half a cup each of cream and chicken stock. When boiling, remove from the fire and beat in two well beaten eggs and one pint chopped chicken. Turn the mixture into buttered ramequin dishes and bake, standing in a pan of hot water, about twenty minutes. The water should be kept below the boiling point. In serving, set the dishes on doiley-covered plates. Fish of any kind may be used in place of the chicken, if desired.

A new way for serving salad is shown in our illustration called the ice-bowl. This is not simply a square of ice just as it comes from the refrigerator, but has special shape, which is arrived at by filling a mould with water and letting it freeze solid; then take a flatiron hot, and with it melt out the center of the ice so as to form a bowl of any depth desired, according to the amount of salad to be served. In this opening place lettuce leaves and then fill in with the salad, whether chicken, lobster, potato or vegetable. We give a recipe for oyster and cabbage salad, which may be new to some.

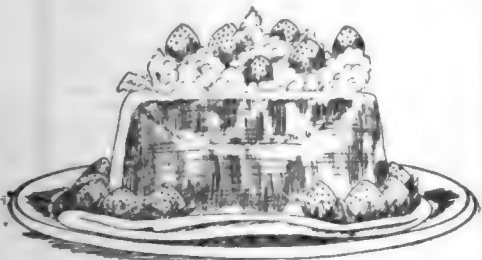
Scald a pint of oysters, and when they are plump drain and cool. Dress with mayonnaise and arrange in the ice bowl on the lettuce leaves alternately with a pint of sliced cabbage that has been chilled in ice water, dried and dressed with mayonnaise. Set the ice bowl upon a folded napkin and garnish with parsley, curled celery or lettuce.

This ice-bowl is also a delicate way for serving fruit salad, as fruit is always so much more appetizing when cold. A fruit pudding made of sliced oranges, bananas and pineapple, served with whipped cream is delicious, and of course in the berry season one of strawberries and raspberries is equally delicate.

Frozen apricots, served in the ice-bowl, make a particularly attractive dish, as the color is different from any other fruit ice. For this, take three cans of apricots, remove the skins and cut in small pieces; pass the syrup through a cheese cloth, add the pulp and three pints sugar and three quarts of water and stir until the sugar is dissolved; then freeze, as any ice cream.

Charlotte russe is a delicate and very much enjoyed sweet by most people, but the way in which it is served, usually, takes away some of the daintiness, as it smacks of the restaurant. Of course we refer to the paper cases. Now charlotte may be made at home and served in a much daintier form, as we have shown in our illustration.

Beat the yolks of four eggs until thick and light-colored; add gradually one cup powdered sugar and the stiffly beaten whites of the four eggs, one-third cup grated chocolate, half a cup of blanched and powdered almonds and three-quarters of a cup of cracker crumbs, very fine, mixed with a teaspoonful baking powder. Bake in small buttered tins for twenty-five minutes. Cut out the centre from



ICE BOWL.

each cake and fill with sweetened and flavored whipped cream; decorate the top with candied violets or cherries.

Now for a few new recipes.

MAPLE SUGAR BISCUIT.

Sift together one quart flour, one teaspoon salt, three level tablespoons baking powder, and work in two tablespoons butter; then mix to a dough with milk or milk and water. Roll out with a rolling pin and spread with maple sugar and roll up like a jelly roll. Cut from the ends in rounds and bake in a buttered pan serving hot with butter.

HICKORY NUT COOKIES.

Thoroughly beat three eggs; add one cup chopped hickory nuts, a cup and a half of sugar, three-quarters cup melted butter and one teaspoon soda and three cups flour, sifted

together. Roll out into a thin sheet, cut with cutter and bake in a moderate oven.

SOFT HERMITS.

Cream half a cup butter; add gradually one cup sugar, half a cup seeded and chopped raisins, two tablespoons flour sifted with half a teaspoon each of cinnamon, mace and nutmeg and one-fourth teaspoon cloves; add two eggs well beaten, half a cup of milk, flour, sifted with two teaspoons baking-powder, to make a soft dough. Roll out, cut in rounds and bake in a hot oven.

CANDIED VIOLETS.

Cook a pound and a quarter of sugar to the soft-ball stage, remove from the fire and add a pound of violets, which have previously been dipped into cold water and dried. Return the sugar to the fire and let it boil up once, pressing the flowers down into the syrup; turn onto a cold dish. The next day drain on a sieve; to the syrup add half a cup of sugar and cook again to the soft ball stage; put in the flowers and set aside for twelve hours; drain again, heat to the boiling point and add the violets. Remove from fire and stir lightly until the syrup begins to grain; then pour on sheets of paper; shake the flowers to separate them, or pull them apart with the fingers.

PEANUT COOKIES.

Cream one-fourth cup butter; add gradually half a cup of sugar and three-quarters of a cup of peanuts pounded fine, one egg beaten, one-fourth teaspoon salt, two tablespoons milk, and one cup flour into which two teaspoons baking powder have been sifted. Drop the mixture onto buttered pans, a teaspoonful in each place. Garnish the top of each with a piece of the nut.

CREAM CHEESE BALLS.

To one cup cream cheese add one tablespoon flour, one-fourth teaspoon each of salt and paprika; then add the whites of two eggs beaten until stiff. Make into small balls, roll in fine cracker crumbs, fry in deep fat and drain on soft paper.

PEANUT SOUP.

Cook two cups shelled peanuts with a slice of onion and stalk of celery until tender; put



CHARLOTTE RUSSE.

through a sieve, reheat with one pint white stock and stir into a white sauce made of one-fourth cup each of butter and flour and a pint of milk. Season with salt and pepper.

SCOTCH WAFERS.

Mix one-fourth cup rolled oats, one-fourth cup oatmeal, half a cup flour, one tablespoon sugar, one-fourth teaspoon salt, and with the tips of the fingers work in two tablespoons butter; add hot water to make a stiff dough, knead slightly and roll into a thin sheet; cut with small cutter and bake on buttered sheets in a moderate oven.

All our recipes call for level measurements.

THE early settlers in California were familiar with the existence of oil, which was seen at various points along the coast; asphaltum, also, oozed up from beds at the bottom of the sea and formed an important factor in household economy. Oil wells were sunk at Santa Paula some years ago, and later an oil-producing belt was discovered below Santa Barbara, when it was found that the stratum stretched far out into the sea; then the drill scaffolding was set in the water, work being started at extremely low tide, and finally the tall scaffolding appeared 90 feet from the shore, rising out of the water; the men work on platforms which are built at different heights, which they successively ascend as the tide rises. The drills are worked in the water from the engine on the beach, the fuel being the oil pumped up. Farther out in the water, in this same locality, oil rises to the surface in many places, and a spring of fresh water also rushes up with such velocity that it can be taken up and used.

THE MARLBOROUGH CAMEOS.

The famous Marlborough cameos have arrived at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, Mass., and the collection is very rare and beautiful. The choicest one was the work of an engraver before the time of Alexander the Great, and for this one gem the price of \$10,000 was paid. It is the finest cameo in the world, measuring six inches by five and a half. It represents the hymeneal procession of Cupid and Psyche. The relief is in flesh color on a background of black, and the designer was Tyonpahr.

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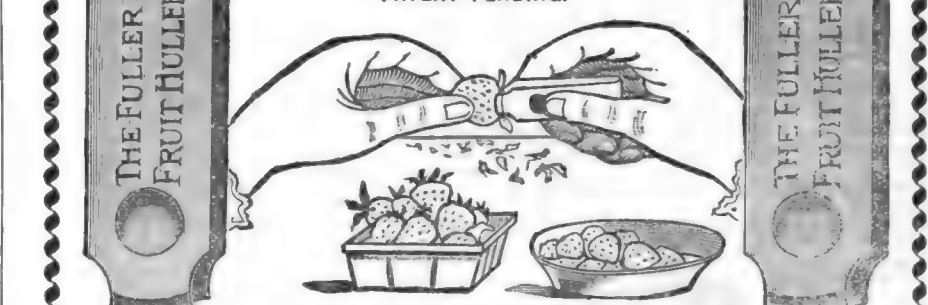
The very stylish dandy that appears in this advertisement represents a flower that grows wild in our yards and fields. We are going to give away \$50 IN GOLD to those who are able to send us the correct name of this flower. **WE DO NOT WANT A CENT OF YOUR MONEY,** and there is only one condition attached to this offer, which will not take one hour of your time. When you have made out your answer send it to us on a postal card, **AND YOU WILL HEAR FROM US BY RETURN MAIL.** It may take you an entire evening to solve this question, but **STICK TO IT AND TRY AND GET YOUR SHARE OF THE \$50,** as we are going to give it away, and you might as well have your share as not. The Metropolitan and Rural Home, 225 William St., New York City.

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Here is an honest advertisement. No beating around the bush. You can get full 10 to 15 yards of beautiful silk, Black, brown, blue, green or pink, in light or dark shades, and a beautiful mercury diamond braid pin for selling our remedies. We talk plain English & guarantee to do exactly as we say. We don't ask a cent. If you agree to sell only 6 boxes of our Positive Corn Cure at 25c a box, we send you the silk dress by mail. When sold you send us the \$1.50 and we send you the solid gold laid mercury diamond braid pin, together with our offer of a handsome silk dress, same day money is received. We make this extraordinary inducement to secure honest people and prove our Corn Cure the best on earth. There is no chance about it. If you comply with the offer we shall send you; the silk dress (full 10 to 15 yards, any color you desire) will be given absolutely free. Don't pay out money for a handsome dress while you can get one free for selling our remedies. Address at once, MANUFACTURERS' SUPPLY DEPT., "D," No. 65, 5th Ave., N. Y. City.

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KEEP YOUR HANDS CLEAN. OUR STRAWBERRY HULLER

hulls Strawberries, Gooseberries, Black Currants, etc., and picks out Basting Thread and Stitches.. Has place for thumb and forefinger; doesn't slip or fill up. A simple little thing, saving Time (most essential thing to housekeepers), Temper, Stained and Sore Fingers. Will not crush ripest fruit. Takes out soft and green spots, leaving berries clean, neat, and clear cut, making them look fifty per cent better in the dish, and makes you wonder why it was not thought of before. With one you can do the work twice as quickly, and without any of the usual unpleasant features of this work. Every lady who tries this once in the berry season will never be without it again, or allow her friends to hull berries with fingers. One trial only is needed. Housekeepers write, "Could not get along now without it." They are brightly nickel-plated and ornamental. Splendid side line. A day's supply goes in your pocket. We deliver all goods so your profit is clear. Send for trial sample, which we will send prepaid for 10 cents, including 3 months' trial subscription to this paper. Send 25c. for one year's subscription and we will send one-half dozen Hullers free; or send 50c. for two years' subscription and we will send one dozen Hullers postpaid. Agents' terms sent on application.

NATIONAL FARMER, Augusta, Maine.

CURRENT TOPICS AMERICAN HISTORY

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



JUDGE TAFT.

THAT the selection of a commission to govern the Philippine Islands would be a wise one could not be doubted by those who have followed the appointments of President McKinley. No administration has ever had to fix the personnel of so many non-partisan commissions as the present one; nor to select commissions on so many important national and international questions. It is a remarkable fact that so wise and judicial have been these selections that not an appointment has ever been criticised, whether the appointee were Republican or Democrat, and without exception the men selected have been recognized as the proper persons to be sent as representatives of the two great parties in the politics of our Republic.

That the selection of the Philippine Commission would be one of most careful consideration could not be doubted, and it is gratifying to note that the members chosen are of the highest ability and character. Men of worth and distinction, who are not and never have been politicians. They will relieve General MacArthur of much of his responsibility when they reach the Archipelago. The commission as finally made up and confirmed consists of: Judge W. H. Taft, of Ohio, President; Professor Dean C. Worcester, of Michigan; General Luke Wright, of Tennessee; Judge Henry C. Ide, of Vermont and Professor Bernard Moses of California.

This commission will practically govern the Philippines until Congress shall have agreed upon some definite course in regard to the future government of the islands. The question of the future of our new possessions has been fought out in Congress, in part, on the question of a duty of goods to and from Porto Rico. A tariff imposing 15 per cent. of the Dingley tariff on the imports and exports has passed both houses by close majorities in a party vote. It is not the intention of COMFORT to discuss questions having political bearing, so that we will not enter into the question beyond pointing out a distinction.

Supposing any of the annexed islands to come in as territory of the United States, they do so under the Constitution and are entitled to territorial government and future statehood, consequently under the constitution no taxes or import duties can be imposed on commerce any more than between that of our different States. On the other hand, it is urged that the Constitution did not contemplate foreign annexation of soil and that these islands must be governed outside the Constitution. In other words, that for the present they must be regarded as colonies having home government but not as part of the territory of the United States, and consequently not in line of future statehood.

It would seem to be prudent to make haste slowly as no thoughtful reader can consider the probability of the enormous representation in Congress that these islands, inhabited by mixed and colored races, would be entitled to were they adopted as terms of absolute equality. Much that is being printed at the present time is for political purposes and on the careful thought of what is best for the country.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier, the premier of Canada, recently announced that the meetings of the Joint High Commission, which had under consideration so many disputed questions relating to the United States and Canada, is soon to recommence its work. It is to be hoped that this is true and that their consideration may lead to a satisfactory and just basis on which to finally settle the questions of mutual interest, boundaries, fisheries etc. which so often arise to hamper the pleasant relations which should always exist between the two countries.

The surprise of the past month was the unexpected appearance of Admiral Dewey in the political arena as a contestant for presidential honors. The country had generally settled to the belief that McKinley and Bryan were to represent the two parties. In the New York World of April 4th, the Admiral notified the public that he had changed his mind as expressed in the fall, when he declined to be considered as a candidate, and that he is now willing to serve the American people if they desire it.

At the time of his return in the *Olympia* he was undoubtedly feared as a possible candidate. His prompt refusal in a measure withdrew him. His present action has caused all sorts of beliefs as to his motives to appear. While many believe it the ingenious action of a man not accustomed to politics, others look upon it as a well-considered scheme of practical political leaders. Dewey's announcement seems to have had no practical effect among republicans, but as he has decided he is a democrat, his candidacy in a measure is against that of Col. Bryan. Exactly what is the purpose of the Dewey appearance, if purpose it has, will appear before the meeting of the Democratic Convention in Kansas City, July 4th.

It is significant that on the very day the public first learned of this decision, the Pennsylvania Democrats in convention reaffirmed their belief in the Chicago platform of 1896 and endorsed, unanimously, Col. Bryan for the presidency.

The widely-spread report that the British government had opened the official letters of Consul Macrum, our Transvaal representative, on investigation by a House committee were found without foundation. At the same time, Webster Davis, the assistant Secretary of the Interior, who recently returned from South Africa has resigned his position in order that he may be free to express himself freely regarding his Boer sympathies and the war. He announces his intention to educate the Americans relative to the Dutch. Our public laugh at Englishmen who write books on America after a few weeks' visit to this land, and they may retaliate on Mr. Davis' proposal which comes after a flying trip to Pretoria.

The embroglio in Kentucky, which was mentioned in the last number of COMFORT, still continues. The Supreme Court of the State has confirmed the right of Beckham, the Democratic claimant of the governor's chair since the death of Goebel, while Governor Taylor still holds the office and acts. A large reward for the assassins of Goebel has stimulated many people into confessions of plots and complicity. In one recently made Governor Taylor and other high state officials in the Republican ranks were parties in the crime. Intelligent opinion of the many conflicting stories can hardly be formed, as both sides seem to promulgate all manner of stories to meet the partisan needs of the moment. Outsiders can only guess at the real condition in the Blue grass State.

Wide-spread comment attends the opening of the Paris Exposition from the fact that the United States has the next largest exhibit to France itself. It fairly distances in size and distinctiveness those of the large commercial countries lying adjacent to France. The fine character of the American exhibit shows the progressive spirit of our commercial interests, and incidentally how America is rapidly pushing to the front as a great world power.

A MAGIC FLUTE ROMANCE.

John Henderson is the luckiest man in the West. If you don't believe it ask him and he will confess it, and tell you moreover that he owes all his good luck in his life to the Magic Flute. It is a strange story, but the true facts are these: Mr. Henderson was in love. The object of his affections was a beautiful young girl of his native town, Des Moines. She was a musical enthusiast and had suitors by the score, for she was not only charming and beautiful of face and figure, but to these graces she added the talent of a superb musician. Naturally, though Mr. Henderson pressed his suit with great ardor, as he was not a performer on any musical instrument he failed to make the desired impression, however much he loved music, and dearly loved the object of his affections.

Happening in Omaha one day, quite desolate, he was astonished to hear sweet and tender strains issuing from the rear door of what proved to be a music store. He paused at the curbstone and listened. It was one of the favorite songs of his beloved, and so mellow and sweet were the sounds that they brought tears to his eyes. Entering the store the stranger asked what sort of an instrument it was that gave forth such magic sounds. He was shown the Magic Flute which had just arrived from New York. Thinking that the instrument that performed such tone miracles must have cost a hundred dollars or more, he was amazed to see what a trifling sum. He bought the instrument, and the next day returned to his native city and that night under the window of the maiden who had rejected him for his lack of musical abilities, Mr. Henderson poured forth his soul in the songs she loved so well. What was the result? The neglected lover was reinstated in the affections of the fair one, the rival suitors retired beaten in the game, and shortly after he was offered a large nightly sum by a celebrated impresario to appear in concert halls in the leading cities of the United States. Mr. and Mrs. Henderson, completely happy and full of gratitude for the working of the Magic Flute, are at present traveling in the East, playing to large houses, Mrs. Henderson accompanying her husband on the piano. The musical world is amazed and delighted with the performances of Mr. Henderson on the Magic Flute. And yet his case is merely typical. You may not win a lovely bride by your skill on the wonderful instrument, but one thing you can do, even if you do not know one note from another, you can play a tune in five minutes and should delight your friends with it within a week.

We have made arrangements with the manufacturers to introduce these wonderful Flutes, and will send one free, all charges paid, including a trial yearly subscription to all sending 25c. to COMFORT Subscription Department, Augusta, Maine. Agents are selling large quantities of these Flutes and you better not delay in sending for a sample and getting wholesale prices.

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X-RAY Latest pocket curiosity. See your fellow, best girl or any object through clothing, wood, or stone. 35c each. R. E. X-Ray Co., Philadelphia, Pa.

How to Cure RUPTURE

DEAR READER:—It gives me much pleasure and satisfaction to write this little story, for it contains a new and wonderful method of curing rupture, hernia, and places before the afflicted words of hope and tidings of great joy.

It is not my intention to use medical words or terms for the purpose of confusing those who are not familiar with them. I am sure this should not be more valuable for using those technical terms which some use, for the sole purpose of making some ignorant one believe they possess extraordinary knowledge. I am not going to describe the many ways one may become ruptured, for the many years I have been ruptured I have been told of more than a thousand different things that caused my patients' affliction. That you are ruptured, and that I can cure you, is the purpose for which this is written, and it will surely be a blessing, coming unawares to those who follow its teachings.

There are several kinds of rupture and they are named according to their location, the most common being Scrotal, Umbilical (navel) and Femoral. They are again divided into two classes as to the method of cure. The reducible is one that can be returned to its proper place within the abdomen. The irreducible is one that cannot be returned. The last named is caused by going without a truss, but mostly by using some poor and ill-constructed one.

There are many people who are ruptured and don't know it. They will have at times a slight pain in the lower part of the abdomen. If they do much lifting or straining work it grows worse and will at times get so bad they think they have an attack of colic. They will take some medicine for colic, lie down, and in many cases the pain will disappear, because whatever was out returns to its natural position. But in other cases the surgeon is called, because the rupture has become strangulated. In some cases he succeeds in reducing it, in others a surgical operation is necessary, and with others after hours of agony death only gives relief.

The best time to attend to a rupture is when it is small, perhaps in some cases no larger than an acorn. Many who have small ruptures say, "It is only a small one, don't give me any trouble, no need to bother about that."

Let me say right here that to neglect a small rupture is one of the most foolish mistakes possible for every minute of life is in danger of immediate and painful death by strangulation, for the opening is so small that it only takes a few minutes to come down. It then requires great force or pressure to move the contents and in many cases it becomes constricted which is very apt to prove fatal or require a painful surgical operation at a great cost of time and money.

HAVE YOU been suffering for years with rupture. If so, I have no doubt but you have tried many trusses and methods of cure, expended many dollars and always the same result—failure. I have been told by some one that if you were in my presence and you believed it because you never took time to think about it, that "rupture could not be cured."

IT CAN BE CURED Just think a minute of what is going on in your body. Two agencies at work, one constantly tearing you down, the other building you up or repairing, and as long as your vitality is good the repairing force keeps you in perfect health. Suppose you broke your arm at the elbow, or the leg, and used it to hold a gun, to remend and heal, the result would be that you would always have a broken arm. But you do have the proper attendance and care, and your arm in a short time is well again. So your rupture will heal if given the same chance—viz., retain or restore it in a natural position the same as if there was no rupture and nature will do the rest. But the facts are:—you became ruptured, experienced very little or no pain, and you put off from day to day using the correct appliance, and you are now in a position to perform the injured part until it was healed, and strong enough to perform its work again. You need an appliance that HOLDS AND HEALS WHILE YOU WORK.

HOW COULD THIS HEAL constructed on the wrong principle. In their day some were considered good and the cases gave partial relief. They would hold one day and perhaps the next day would let the hernia out many times. In fact never two days alike because they were not self-adjusting. Some thought when the elastic was introduced, it was a correct truss at last, but they soon found out their mistake. They placed all dependence on elastic webbing or belts which go around the body and they must be pulled or buckled tight enough so they are a torture, to bring the pads in position to bear on the rupture. Everyone knows that the sweat of the body will soon rot the elastic in the webbing, and so they must be continually stretching and giving out; never two days alike; consequently the intestines are being let out of their natural position, and never give the rupture a chance to heal. How can a kind of truss, a truss that would hold under every condition the strain from the injured part until it was healed, and strong enough to perform its work again. You need an appliance that HOLDS AND HEALS WHILE YOU WORK.

HOW TO CURE To effect a cure of hernia, all know that the hernial tumor or intestines must be held in an easy, comfortable and natural position, in fact it must be in the same natural position that they would be in if there was no rupture. It has been my great fortune to have placed in my possession a new idea in the shape of what I may call a truss. Do not think it is one of those instruments of torture you have seen that has ropes, pulleys, elastic, etc. To make this truss work it is necessary to use the electric light with an old fashioned lamp. My appliance or truss stands out alone as a new idea, something far ahead of anything ever before placed upon a human being. A wonderful invention, which with every thing in its proper, and a correct truss at last position, giving nature the chance to heal she has been waiting for. IT IS AS EASY TO WEAR AS A STOCKING, safe, simple, clean and durable.

WILL LAST 100 YEARS Cool and comfortable in warm weather, and in winter it will keep you warm. No parts to chafe, does not absorb the foul odors of the body, always comfortable, always healing. It has no elastic webbing, no straps between the legs and no spring around the body. No matter what your position is, it never needs changing.

YOU WORK WHILE IT HEALS No loss of time. Our appliance stands out alone, a new idea, PATENTED BY THE U. S. GOVERNMENT, and has been proven to be far in advance of any other appliance for the cure of rupture.

DOES IT DO THIS Is it comfortable, giving you a feeling of safety that you are all right? Is your rupture week by week growing smaller? If not, throw away that truss. Don't lose your health, perhaps your life, with such a contrivance in principle, wrong in construction, and may do a positive injury. In many cases the trusses are made and sold by persons who never saw a rupture. Belts, elastic, springs, and in fact everything that could be made, that some kind of a pad was fastened to, was put on to sufferers as a truss.

WHAT YOU WANT Is an appliance that holds everything in its natural position, SAFE, SURE, WANTS CLEANLY, HEALING, COMFORTABLE. You ask, "Is there such an appliance?" The answer is, "Yes, for I HAVE THAT APPLIANCE!" The inventor of this wonderful truss, the Rev. Jeremiah Hayden, who was chaplain of the 17th Maine.

—Finding myself ruptured, I sought advice of an elder brother who had the same trouble. He said, "I have been ruptured for forty years, and have spent over \$300 for trusses, and the one I have on now is the best one I ever had. It cost me \$15 (it was an elastic truss) but it is breaking and I must get another." On examination I found an elastic strap around him with every stitch of the webbing printed on his body, while the underpad that passed between his legs had chafed him so that he was red and sore. This led me to discover my truss, which is AS EASY TO WEAR AS A STOCKING, and which ended all pain, danger and cost, and never needs repairing. I want to get it into the hands of my fellowmen who are suffering from this dangerous and painful infirmity, for I know it will be worth a hundred times its cost. I am broken down with kidney and heart disease, and I am in constant expectation of death. (82 years old.) The thought has been constantly before me, a man's invention which has the power to relieve so much suffering should not be buried with me. As I am not able, I want you to take measures to introduce it to the world, and if this is accomplished, I shall feel that my life has been of value to the world. As I have reflected upon the misery of millions without means of relief, and the dismal certainty of their growing worse, and considered that I have in my keeping a comfortable, sure fitting, never failing remedy, amply proven and tested in my own and other cases,

and which, at a glance, common sense will appreciate. I feel that it would be a giant wrong to mankind to have this invention buried with me, for as I VALUE MY HONOR IN THIS WORLD AND MY SOUL IN THE NEXT, I unhesitatingly declare that a failure in any instance is impossible." A truly most wonderful invention; a blessing to mankind. An article that will cure, because it will hold everything just right, in its natural position, which gives the rupture a chance to re-unite and heal.

CAN YOU DOUBT What more need be said than the minister's statement printed above? Does any one believe for a moment that Mr. Hayden would make a statement he did not believe true? Will you be benefited by my method? It costs so little and success is certain. Why will you not give it a chance to exist when the means of relief are at your command?

TERMS: It is the perfect confidence I have in my method of cure that warrants me in adopting the above terms. Surely I have great faith in my way of treating rupture or I NO PAY would never make the following proposition to you. It is a fair, honest offer that no other firm dare make, because they have not the goods to back it up. You will carefully fill up the Measurment Blank with the answers to the questions asked thereon. We also ask you to sign our Special Order Blank. You will please send us those two blanks and the small sum stated on the Special Order Blank with your order. The reason I ask you to send this guarantee with the order is, there are so many people who are always writing for anything they can get for nothing. Many would write who are not ruptured. They know some one who is, and they want to get for nothing something they can sell the afflicted party for \$10 or \$15. There are others who have no gratitude in them; their object seems to be to get all they can for nothing and in no way ever think of repaying a favor or paying what rightfully belongs to them to pay. THIS I KNOW FROM ACTUAL EXPERIENCE. Such parties often trouble me, I have decided on the following plan. You are to send the two blanks before mentioned and the small amount stated thereon, the same to be held by us as a small guarantee of good faith. Upon receipt of same we at once send you by mail, all charges paid, a safe delivery guaranteed, a truss, the same to be used by you. When cured you are to promptly send us \$4.00 more and return our truss, which we only lend you. Many who get cured say they want to keep the truss. To all I will say that I will send to you a charge of \$4.00 more, the same to be used by you, and it will not be over \$10. The terms I have offered are fair and liberal, no fair-minded person can say they are not, and I will not under any circumstances deviate from them. Will you, after these plain and truthful statements, continue to suffer and risk your life by wearing an old style, imperfect truss? Dare you go without one knowing you are daily growing worse, and that within a short time you will become a total wreck? Dare you lay this aside before you give it a trial, which costs you nothing, and you may be cured? Do you think it is a humbug? If we were friends we would not ask such a small sum with the order; we would ask \$5.00 or \$10.00. A fraud never expects a second order, so they get all the first.

We can fit an infant, or a man, or woman weighing 100 lbs. Freshly ladies having navel ruptures will find it most blessing. No hot bands around you. It is the only truss that can be worn by women and be clean and comfortable. Ruptured women who are pregnant can wear it and avoid many hours and days of misery. Don't put off, or delay, your cure until tomorrow may be too late. What more need be said to convince you? We warrant A PERFECT FIT IN EVERY CASE.

SEE THE TESTIMONIALS Be sure to fill out the two blanks. The truss fits all kinds of ruptures. I have cured many and can cure you if you will only let me. I can be the means of doing you much good, and hope to hear from you in the near future. If the names of people who have been cured by our method, endorse our method, send postage and we will send you their names.

MY GUARANTEE The perfect confidence I have in my truss, and the knowledge I have from actual experience of its curing GUARANTEE properties enables me to guarantee every truss. Your rupture may be small, or it may be one that only at times gives you little pain or trouble, but you ever know a rupture will grow from month to month and grow worse. Let me say right here that there is nothing so dangerous as a rupture. Nothing keeps a man or woman so near death, nothing causes so much trouble or the cause of so many surgical operations. The ways of Providence are wonderful. This advertisement may be one of its methods of warning, coming to you unawares, which if neglected means your death. Don't be deceived or have your mind changed by some one who has trusses for sale or who tempts you by getting a truss, and then says, "I will send you the money, so they will say, "Don't send for the Surehold Truss; it is so cheap it can't be good," and then they will offer to sell you something costing \$5.00 and upwards, and say, "This is good, because we ask a big price for our truss, and they make so few sales that when they find a customer they charge enough to keep themselves going until they get another victim to fleece. Just say to such people that the Surehold Truss is not sold, it is only loaned, and just as soon as you are cured I get the truss back and \$4.00 more for my trouble. Do not let patients, so it pays me. Ask others to let you have their goods on the same terms as I do, and I will warrant you will get some money back."

A MAN I CURED WHILE HE WORKED. DEAR SIR: I cannot find words to express my thanks. I tried many kinds and never one that would hold me. The Surehold holds me in all places and at all kinds of work, and I have never lost a day's time. I am cured entirely and have not had to wear a truss for many weeks. I have worked hard shoveling and wheeling coal; traveling up and down stairs at my work as watchman. Some nights I have put in more than a ton of coal. G. S. HOOLEY, Norwood, Mass. Granite St.

A WOMAN FERRING. AGE 61. DEAR SIR: I cannot say enough in favor of your truss. Please accept my most sincere thanks for the benefit I have received. I have not worn a truss for three months now. I had previously worn a truss day and night for over 18 years. I have worked hard all the fall drying fruit and doing the duties of the household. I heartily wish that every man, woman or child who has suffered as I did would be convinced that your truss will cure rupture, and wish you long life and prosperity and as your own state will be the future. Yours truly, MARTHA DAVIS, Diamond, Ark.

A BOY CURED MY BOY. SIR: Your truss has cured said it would. I am more than thankful to you. Every word you said was true. No need of any child suffering when they can be cured so easily.

Mrs. MARY YARNELL, Middleton, Ohio. The above are only a few of the testimonials that we could print more testimonials from which these testimonials were taken and guarantee the same to be genuine. I was also shown a great many other testimonials which speak in the highest terms of the Surehold Truss. CHAS. B. WOODMAN, MAYOR WESTBROOK, ME. This is to certify that I am personally acquainted with Mr. Alexander Speirs, and consider him responsible for any contracts he may make and strictly reliable. KING and COMPANY, Reference Any Bank, Mercantile Agency, Official, and the Publishers of this paper. Men and women use the same measure blank.

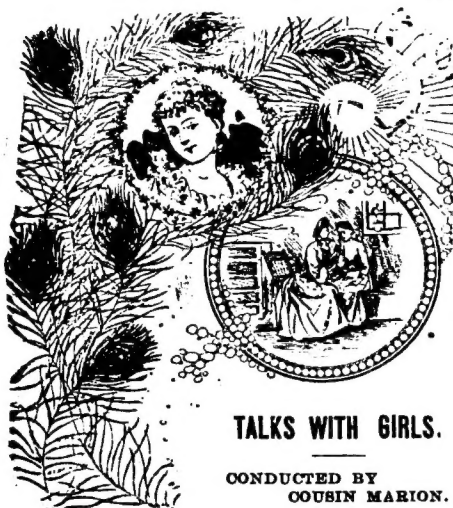
SPECIAL ORDER BLANK. ALEXANDER SPEIRS—DEAR SIR—FIND ENCLOSED MY MEASURES, ALSO \$4.00 AS A GUARANTEE, FOR ONE SINGLE SUREHOLD TRUSS (SEND \$2.50 FOR A DOUBLE TRUSS) TO BE SENT BY MAIL, ALL CHARGES PREPAID. WHEN CURED OF MY RUPTURE I PROMISE TO PAY \$4.00 MORE AND RETURN THE TRUSS YOU SEND ME.

NAME..... STREET, OR P. O. BOX IF YOU HAVE ONE..... POST OFFICE..... COUNTY..... STATE.....

MEASURE BLANK. 1. How many inches do you measure around the body on a line with the rupture? 2. Are you ruptured on right side, left side, both sides, or navel? 3. About how large is the rupture? 4. How near the scrotum is it? 5. Does it descend into the scrotum? 6. Can you reduce or return it easily? 7. What is your height? 8. What is your weight? 9. What is your occupation? 10. How long have you been ruptured? 11. Mark as near as possible on picture where your rupture is.

State you saw this ad. in COMFORT.

ALEX. SPEIRS, Westbrook, Maine.



TALKS WITH GIRLS.

CONDUCTED BY COUSIN MARION.

How pleasant is the month of May
With all the world so bright and gay,
With heart so light and eyes so bright,
It's like an opening summer day.

There, my dears, is a little verse of poetry for a greeting to you in this last and sweetest month of Spring, and may it always be May to you. Now let us go to talking about ourselves.

The first letter is from Alice of Lincoln, Me., who asks me a lot of questions about young men, but as she is only fifteen I refer her to her mother. She asks also whether the vertical or slanting style of handwriting is preferable and I answer that the vertical is better than any other because it is more legible.

Wild Rose, Lee, N. D.—It is proper for a girl to ask a young man to write to her if their friendship is of long standing. Usually the young man does the asking.

Fannie, Berlin, Md.—It is wrong to flirt either for fun or otherwise. It cheapens a girl and ought to make her ashamed of herself because it is one of the worst forms of deceit.

Hunnie, Braddock, Pa.—You must know a young man very well before you begin to find fault with him for going to see other girls. I fancy you are inclined to be jealous. Cure yourself of it or you will never be happy.

A. S., Dubuque, Ia.—It would not be right for me to help you with the letter your teacher wants you to write. Do it yourself, even if you don't win the prize.

Viola, Brotherton, Pa.—Consult your family physician about superfluous hair and freckles. There is danger in ignorance. (2) Wait for the young man to write.

Libbie, Ia, Mich.—If the young man never does anything worse than dance and play a friendly game of cards, he will get along all right. Give him a little latitude and use your influence to keep him within bounds. (2) The man may sit on either side of the lady and he usually walks on her left. (3) When anywhere together it is the lady's privilege to suggest when to leave.

Lizette and Evelyn, Grand Rapids, Mich.—Paris is probably the better place for you to pursue your art studies. Rome later. (2) Sorry, but I am past the age when women love to be photographed and I have no pictures. Thank you just the same for the compliment.

Blue Eyes, Paragon, Ind.—If a girl has to pay a young man to come to see her she ought to find a better use for her money. (2) In an emergency it is proper to ask a young man to go home with you.

A. S. F. and Eline, Okabena, Minn.—Certainly, break the engagement if the man proves to be unworthy. Why not? (2) Make the young man wait till the girl is ready. (3) You owe a duty to your parents and not less to yourself and the young man. Can't you and he arrange to marry and live with the "old folks?"

Country Blonde, Walnut Hill, Ga.—Consult advertisements in COMFORT for place to sell stamps. (2) Manufacturers can make spoons cheaper than they can buy empty ones. (3) Ask any business man in your town about the bonds.

Dode, Chicago, Ill.—What else can the young man do but buy a new ring to replace the one he has lost? (2) Young men take scoldings good-naturedly from girls like. Don't write to the Summer young man.

Snow Bird, Sycamore, Pa.—Refuse ever to see again the man who insults you. (2) Nice girls never wink at anybody. (3) The young man who makes "something bad" out of what you say to him is not a gentleman and you should cut his acquaintance. (4) It is quite proper for a man to tell a girl she is pretty, if she is. (5) Ten years is about the right difference in age for man and wife.

Jessie, Bowling Green, Ky.—If you should wish the young man by dyeing your hair, what would you do when after you were married the dye comes out? Do you think he would love a girl who cheated him like that? (2) You must use your own judgment in refusing the young man.

American Girl, Gomer, Ohio.—A man that is hard to get along with as a sweetheart will be a hundred times worse as a husband, and you had better let him go. You need not be particular about his feelings in doing it either.

Young Writer, Delaware, Ill.—Submit your writings to your country editor and get your literary start that way.

Lucille W., Parkersburg, W. Va.—Don't "drop" the young man exactly, but let him down easy. He is too young for you anyhow and is likely to become very tiresome. Still, if you love him enough to choose him as against all other friends, go ahead. He's decent and respectable which is something in his favor.

Maid Marion, Bloomington, Ill.—Ladies in good society do smoke cigarettes, but it is not to their credit and should not be followed as an example by people of real refinement. (2) Yes, have a jolly good time but be careful always, so as to avoid even talk. Popularity is something you will have to let go to your successors. It can't stay with you always. (3) Simply pull the hair out of the mole. (4) Bleached hair ought to fall out. (5) There is no positive preventive of the stoutness you mention except by general thinness.

Cassy, Bloomfield, Ill.—The young man who deliberately breaks an engagement is unworthy of confidence again, and you should by all means have no more to do with him. (2) A young man who is a gentleman will return your ring to you when you want it. (3) Simple powder may be used on the face, but never paint.

Tempest, West Union, Neb.—It is quite proper for you to go "with a fellow after he has insulted" you. Don't you know that gentlemen always insult ladies? Why are you so silly?

Ollie, Clifton, Ky.—You may kiss the young man if you are engaged to him. (2) Don't marry till after you are through school. (3) There is no cure for inherited diseases. (4) A girl may visit in the neighborhood where her sweetheart lives.

Hope, Halsey, Ore.—A girl may learn dressmaking as soon as she can sew, but she won't know much about it till she has had several years' experience. (2) It is better to wear corsets about the house, unless you want to give them up entirely. (3) Dances are all right if you want to go to them. That is, nice dances.

Violette, Springfield, Ala.—Drop the young man who tries to make love to two girls. He is bound to be lying to one of them. (3) Engaged girls usually give up their other men friends as soon as the engagement is known.

Harriet, Adirondack, N. Y.—You may ask another girl to go walking with you and your beau, but it isn't customary. (2) You may go walking alone with him every night if you are engaged. (3) Suit your taste in what you serve at a birthday party.

Anxious One, Sacramento, Cal.—A girl should never accept a man's attention when he is polite to her only when it suits his pleasure. If she does she deserves every snub she gets.

Hawthorne, Fair Oaks, Tenn.—Wear a simple white dress at your graduating exercises, and of the usual length. Ask your teacher the other questions you ask me.

Wild Flower, Great Bend, N. Y.—Have nothing to do with the articles you mention as seeing advertised. Talk to your family physician.

Chatter Box, Villa Grove, Ill.—Say almost anything except "You are welcome," when a man thanks you for dancing with him. (2) Don't stand at the gate very long, and you are the one to go first. (3) Order breakfast or lunch or supper from a menu all at once; dinner is in this order, usually, oysters, soup, fish, meats and vegetables, salad, dessert, coffee.

Brown Eyes, Dunham, Ind.—The nicest kind of people dance the round dances. (2) The lady should return with the escort who took her. (3) No, a young man should not "hang around" a lady at a party. (4) Girls of sixteen should not go to dances or have beaux. (5) A young man may act as escort to two or more young ladies.

C. B. O., Chillicothe, O.—Help the young man on with his overcoat if he needs help, which I don't think he does.

Vivian, Attica, Kans.—Sensible women do not lace. It is neither becoming, artistic nor healthful. (2) You ask too many questions at once.

Two Brunettes, Cooperstown, N. D.—Tell the young man when it is time to go if he hasn't sense enough to know. (2) There is no set form of speech for accepting courtesies. Use your judgment.

Prudence, Mill Creek, Miss.—If you can't win the young man's affection any other way than by kissing him, let his affection go to grass.

Florence, Astoria, Ore.—Flirting is a despicable form of deceit. That is the best definition I know. (2) In Astoria a young woman may go rowing with a young man by moonlight. (3) Does your sense of propriety tell you to let the young man kiss you? If it does, then let him kiss you.

Beatrice, Davenport, Ia.—Meeting the man at your sister's you may invite him to call and accept his invitation to an entertainment. (2) Yes, the lady may take the man's arm without his asking her to. (3) It is quite correct to offer refreshments of some simple kind to callers in the evening. You may or may not, as you please. This may include a cigar to the man if you don't object to smoking. (5) Polite, but not customary.

Pansy, Highland, Tenn.—Don't believe the young man who drinks whiskey. All the chances are he will not tell you the truth.

Mocking Bird, Lake City, Fla.—The young man in the dance should hold your arm below the elbow. (2) The young man may talk love if he means it. If you do not like it, tell him so.

Auburn Tresses, Chatsworth, Ill.—Don't talk with strange men on trains, or elsewhere. Never flirt in any form, postage stamp or otherwise, and keep your locks of hair to yourself.

That is all, my dears, and those of you who are not answered directly will find answers that fit your cases in my answers to the other cousins. May life be pleasant to you all as the Springtime.

COUSIN MARION.

THE Prince of Wales is said to be insured for ten million dollars. Comparatively little of this sum, however, is for the benefit of the family of the insured, for about three millions of the full amount has been placed on the life of the Prince as a speculation by persons who do not know him and never had any relations with him whatever. This is allowed by some of the English companies, but would not be in this country. When the Prince undergoes an examination for insurance, speculators apply to the same company for policies on his life, and in this way many who have speculated in this way would be financially benefitted at his death.

AT the last convention of the American Whist League, a scale of punishments for the various crimes committed at the whist table was adopted, which was to be carried out to the letter; some of them are as follows:

Failing to notice partner's lead—to play for 30 consecutive evenings with women.

Failing to notice partner's signal for trumps—Death, or instruction of one or more young women in the game.

Failing to return partner's lead of trumps—To be ruled out of the game for one year.

Leading from a sneak—To be banished from polite and other society. For preferring lucky whist to duplicate—Life imprisonment.

For preferring any other game to whist—To be burned at the stake.

CLEAR SKIN ASSURED. Send \$1.00 for Eminent English Physician's Preparation. Cures Itch, Blood, Pimples, Blisters, Boils. Osborne Co., Box 378, Montreal, Canada.

RUPTURE CURED while you work. You pay \$4 when cured. No cure, no pay. ALEX. SPEIRS, Box 17, WESTBROOK, MAINE.

LADIES WANTED to do writing at home. Good wages. No canvassing. Send stamped envelope for reply. Miss MODELL MILLER, New Carlisle, Ind. Please mention COMFORT when you write.

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We will forward

FREE

To any address, full information how to grow hair upon the balding head, stop hair falling, cure weak eyebrows and eyelashes, scanty parting, scurf, dandruff, itching scalp, and restore gray and faded hair to its natural color. Enclose 2-cent stamp for sealed package. Address: LORIMER & CO., 331 N. Howard St., Baltimore, Md.

EARN A CAMERA, or BRACELET, or GOLD-FILLED RING, BY SELLING 10 PINS AT 10c. EACH.

These are beautiful Gold Stick Pins, set with rubies, pearls, emeralds, etc., and are worth twice the price.

Send us your name and full address. We will then send you the pins. You sell them, return the money to us, and choose premium—a camera, bracelet or ring, or any other premium in our large illustrated catalogue.

NOVELTY JEWELRY CO.
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nothing. It benefits everybody who reads it. It places you in touch with the wonder-science of the age. Read it anyhow. It is absolutely FREE. A postal card will bring it by return mail, all charges paid. Apply at once to **PROF. L. A. HARRADEN, Box 320, JACKSON, MICH.**

LEARN TO HYPNOTIZE!

Reader, do you desire to become a Hypnotist? Do you want to know how to utilize the most powerful and mysterious force of nature? Do you value control over others? Do you value the means of securing friendship, love and personal influence? Do you value the power to conquer pain and banish sickness, to reform a misguided friend, to gain business success, to win wealth, position and happiness? If you do, you must learn to Hypnotize. Why not? No other accomplishment is so easily acquired. It can be mastered in a few hours time, without leaving your home. It costs nothing to find out all about it. The greatest Hypnotist of the century has just issued in book form a large and exhaustive TREATISE, or Instructor in Hypnotism, covering the whole ground of his Science, and he will send it while the edition lasts, absolutely FREE TO ALL who apply. The book is profusely illustrated, containing hundreds of beautiful and artistic engravings, and shows as never was before the principles, features, wonders and uses of this mysterious Science, all in a popular and pleasing style. It tells you just what Hypnotism is, and what you may accomplish with it. It shows you how you may sway the minds of others, perform astounding feats and produce amusement by the hour. New and instantaneous methods. Success absolutely guaranteed. Remember, this grand work costs you nothing. It benefits everybody who reads it. It places you in touch with the wonder-science of the age. Read it anyhow. It is absolutely FREE. A postal card will bring it by return mail, all charges paid. Apply at once to **PROF. L. A. HARRADEN, Box 320, JACKSON, MICH.**



\$2000 FREE A SQUARE AND HONEST IDEA OF ADVERTISING OUR MAGAZINE. We will divide Two Thousand Dollars, payable June 30, 1908, among those who correctly count the exact number. For instance if ten correct answers are received each receives \$200, if forty correct answers are received each receives \$500, and so on. It is difficult to find exact number, so correct answers will not be many. We require each contestant to send 10 cents for trial six months subscription and postage expenses, as we have no further conditions or requirements. The \$2000 is appropriation to introduce our magazine and if you look sharp you can be successful for a cash prize. Address **BRADDON PUBLISHING CO., Box 1880, Philadelphia, Pa.**

SEND ONE DOLLAR Cut this ad out, and send to us, state number of inches across top of your buggy seat in front, from outside to outside, and we will send you this **BUGGY TOP** by freight, C. O. D. subject to examination. You can examine it at your freight depot, and if found perfectly satisfactory, the greatest bargain you ever saw, and equal to tops that retail at \$15.00, pay the freight and our SPECIAL PRICE, \$7.50, less the \$1.00, or \$6.50 and freight charges. The freight charges will average about 30 cents for 500 miles. **THE TOPS ARE BUILT TO FIT ANY BUGGY OR ROAD WAGON.** You can fit them on in 20 minutes. Made from 24-oz. best rubber drill, head and back stays lined with No. 14X cloth, side curtains unlined, 3 or 4 black japanned steel bows, japanned prop nuts, wrought iron shifting rail, patent buttons, which make it adjustable; full length back curtain with glass window, valance from rear. ORDER TODAY. WRITE FOR FREE BUGGY CATALOGUE. **SEARS, ROEBUCK & CO. (Inc.), Chicago.**

\$1,000 SALARY PER YEAR! Ladies or Gentlemen: We have shared the general pros and cons of the country, and we now want one or two permanent representatives in each state to look after our interests, manage our agents, and attend to collections. This position involves no canvassing and is a bona fide weekly salaried position, with all expenses paid to the right party. It is mainly office work conducted at your own home, with the occasional trip out among the agents. No investment required. Also three salaried vacancies in the traveling department. Enclose references and self-addressed stamped envelope to **PROVIDENCE CO., A. Carter Bldg., CHICAGO.**

FREE DO YOU WANT A WATCH that runs & keeps good time This watch has a **SOLID GOLD** case, handsome dial and proof, adjusted to position, patent escapement, and highly finished. This is a remarkable watch. We guarantee it and with proper care it should wear and give satisfaction for 50 years. It has the appearance of a **SOLID GOLD** one. The watch is accompanied with a **30 YEAR GUARANTEE.** The cases are beautifully made by the most skillful workmen. The movement is an **AMERICAN** style, expansion balance, quick train, and you can rely upon it that when you own one these truly handsome watches, you will at all times have the correct time in your possession. Do you want a watch of this character? If so, now is your opportunity to secure one. **WE GIVE IT FREE** as a premium to anyone for selling 15 pieces of our handsome jewelry, for 10c each (each set with an exquisite jewelry). Regular price \$10.00. Simply send your name and address and we will send you the 15 pieces of jewelry in this advertisement. We mean just what we say and allow a cash commission if preferred. You require no capital while working for us. Address, **SAFE WATCH CO., P. O. Box 180, New York.**

\$25 Free Mail Course

In Magnetic Healing, Hypnotism, Self-Healing, Self-Hypnotism, Absent Treatment, &c.

PAY AFTER YOU LEARN.

To be well taught never pay in advance. "This school goes much deeper into these occult sciences than any other. The each student knows phase and their combined course is the most complete ever published." Address **EMPIRE COLLEGE, R 27, St. Louis, Mo.**

\$30 WEEKLY PAY positive sure. Don't miss this chance. It is a business that just suits everybody. Address, **WORTH & CO., 111 Tremont Street, Boston, Mass.**

WANTED SALESMAN in all parts of the U. S. and Canada, yearly contracts, salary and expenses, outfit furnished. **THE J. S. BERRY MFG. CO., Connecticut, Ohio.**

PILES **ELECTROLYTIC** gives instant relief. Final cure in a few days, never returns; no purge, no salve, no knife. Remedy mailed Free. Address **J. H. REEVES, Box 666, New York, N. Y.**



FREE! FOR EVERYBODY.

The Champion Fisherman's Outfit.

To everyone who likes to fish, either for sport, for the family, or for the market, we will send this Fisherman's Outfit Free, postage paid, if he will set up a club of new subscribers for COMFORT at 2 cents each per year in advance.

Here it is, complete, nicely packed in a box.

No. 1. One Good Size Fine Polished Brass Reel. Will wind any line in first-class style. Works perfectly.

No. 2. One Lined Trout Line. Guaranteed to safely land the heaviest trout or fish of equal size.

No. 3. One Lined Bass or Salmon Line. Large, for big game fish, like salmon or black bass. This line will land the biggest fish caught with bait and sinker, or trolling from boat.

No. 4. One Long Cotton Line. Good for everyday fishing, after perch, catfish, sunfish, rock bass, etc.

No. 5. One Strong Line. Complete, with hook, bob and sinker. This is a whole outfit in itself, comprising a long stout line with medium-sized hook attached, and neat movable bob and sinker. With bait at hand and this line in his pocket the fisherman can start right in and try his luck.

No. 6. One Dozen Best Steel Ringed Fish Hooks (assorted sizes). These are best grades of hooks warranted, strong, sharp in points and barbs, and handy to use, anybody being able to tie their line into the ring of the hook.

No. 7. Two Imported Trout Flies. They will draw trout from deep pools when other flies fail. They are natural, brilliant in color, strongly fastened around the hook.

No. 8. One Imported Bass Fly. For black bass fishing, and the equal of the trout fly in excellence of material.

No. 9. One Improved Salmon Fly. Of the best pattern, and perfect shape and color, sure to rise and catch the fish.

No. 10. Two Snell Hooks and Gut. These hooks are set on long guts, and where fish cut the lines one of these snell hooks can be safely used, the gut cannot be severed, and lands the fish every time.

These artificial flies and snells alone are worth the amount asked for the entire outfit.

Given as a premium for three yearly subscriptions to COMFORT at the special trial price of 25 cents each, or sent postpaid for 50 cents cash. Don't buy fishing tackle in the stores and pay fifty or seventy-five cents every day or two.

Address **PUB. COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.**

C. S. A. MONEY Circulars free. Address **P. H. Cheney, Box 6, Mutual, Ohio.**

PIMPLES and Blackheads removed in 4 to 6 days. Perfectly Harmless. Never fails. Send 10 cts. Specific Remedy Co., Dept. K, Cleveland, Ohio.

OPIUM and Liquor Habit cured in 10 to 20 days. No pay till cured. Write **DR. J. L. STEPHENS CO., Dept. CL, Lebanon, Ohio.**

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YOU MAY NOT FEEL SICK

BUT ALL HANDS POINT TO THE FACT YOU ARE NOT WELL AND WHETHER YOU BE MAN OR WOMAN YOU WILL SOON TAKE ON THIS AGONIZED LOOK.

WE CAN HELP YOU.



YOU DON'T NEED MEDICINE.

But you say you feel generally miserable or suffer with a thousand and one indescribable bad feelings, both mental and physical? Among them low spirits, nervousness, weariness, lifelessness, weakness, dizziness, feelings of fullness or bloating after eating, or sense of "goneness" or emptiness of stomach in morning, flesh soft and lacking firmness, headache, blurring of eyesight, specks floating before the eyes, nervous irritability, poor memory, chilliness, alternating with hot flushes, lassitude, throbbing, gurgling, or rumbling sensations in bowels, with heat and nipping pains occasionally, palpitation of heart, short breath on exertion, slow circulation of blood. Don't your hands and feet become cold and clammy, do you **HAWK AND SPIT** and expectorate greenish colored matter? Is your urine scanty or high colored and does it deposit a sediment after standing? You have pain and oppression in chest and back, pain around the loins, aching after meals, but nervous wakefulness at night, languor in the morning and a constant feeling of dread as if something awful was about to happen.

There Is Help for You. You Can Yet Be Happy.

I have an appliance. The only way to introduce it is to let you try it **FREE**. You will tell others if it helps you. It is perfectly harmless. Send us your name we are looking for real sufferers and knowing it will do you good you can cure yourself without trouble or expense. This article is perfectly safe and reliable, can be worn day and night, all of the time or part of the time and in any place or spot on the body that feels sick or shows pain—it is most marvelous acting and is the greatest God-send you ever heard of. After you use it and you feel its power you will say \$25 would not have prevented me from sending for it. It acts just as well on man or woman.

THE ONLY CONDITIONS.

We send one all charges paid. It is Medical and we are obliged to put on Revenue stamps. Therefore as we furnish them entirely free we simply ask you to send us **TEN CENTS** for others about the same. We trust to your honor to tell others about the cure and know many will be sold thereby. We do not ask you to send any more money unless you want others to sell at a profit after you try it. Address, **G. O. COMPANY, Box 634, Augusta, Maine.**

Send No Money

WE ASK
NO MONEY

5-DRAWER GRAND.

until you have examined the machine and convinced yourself it is such a machine as was never before offered at anything like the price.

OUR OFFER:

MENTION SPECIAL OFFER No. 84H if you have any use for a Sewing Machine. DON'T SEND ONE CENT OF MONEY, but write your name plainly and in full, name of postoffice and nearest railroad station, and we will send this

DROP HEAD, 5-DRAWER CABINET BURDICK SEWING MACHINE

to your railroad station, prepaying all freight charges ourselves.

You go there and EXAMINE IT, call in any expert to examine it, compare it with machines that others sell at \$40.00 to \$60.00, and if everyone pronounces it in every way the equal of such machines, the LOWEST PRICE ever attempted for such a High Grade Machine, THE MOST WONDERFUL BARGAIN YOU EVER HEARD OF, pay the freight agent

OUR SPECIAL INTRODUCTORY PRICE, **\$16.45**

IF IT IS NOT PERFECTLY SATISFACTORY IN EVERY WAY,
YOU WILL BE UNDER NO OBLIGATION TO TAKE IT

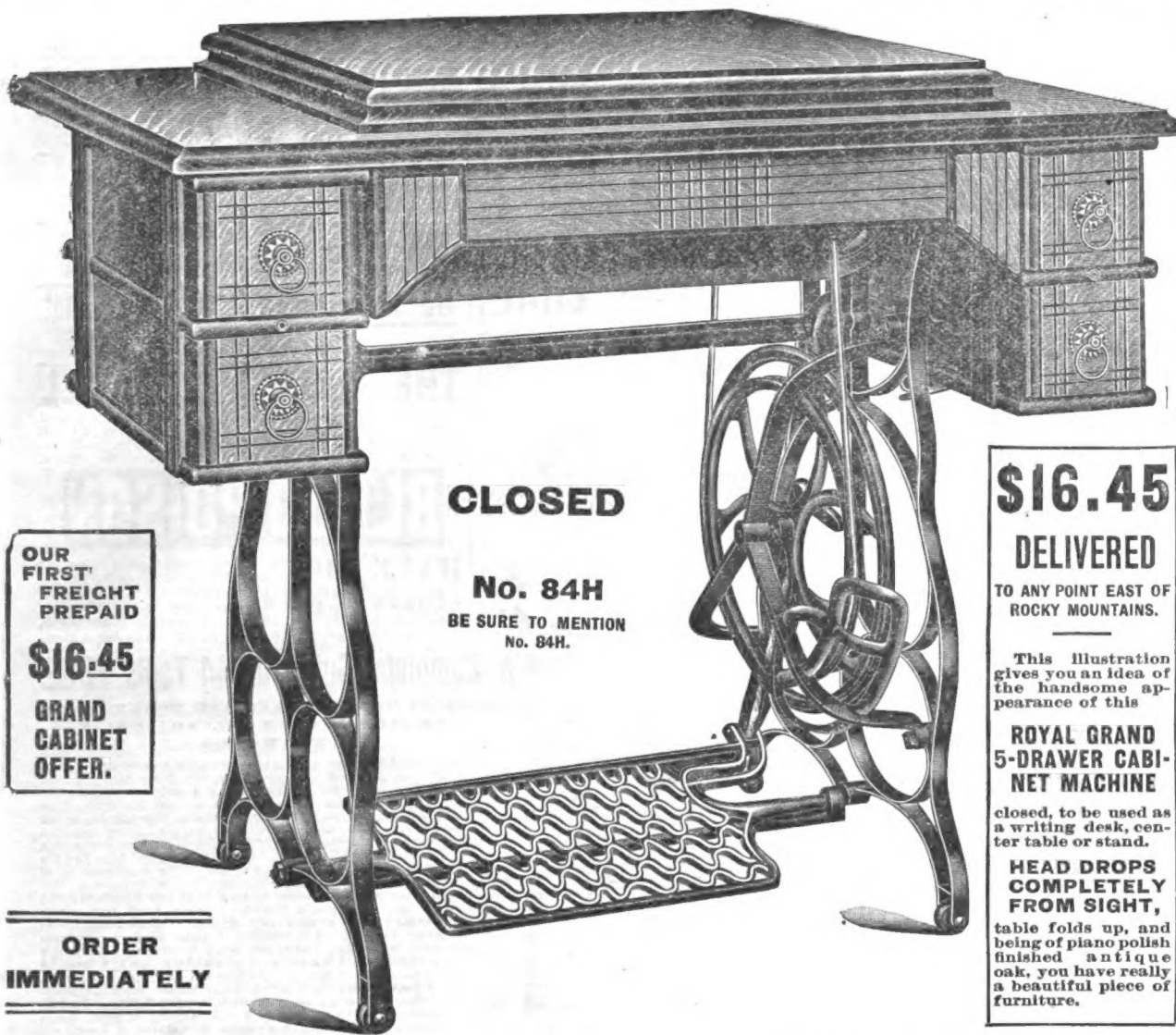
WE SEND IT, FREIGHT PREPAID, AT OUR OWN RISK.

THREE MONTHS' FREE TRIAL.

You can give this machine three months' trial in your own home, and if at any time within the three months you become dissatisfied with the machine from any cause whatever, YOU CAN RETURN IT TO US AT OUR EXPENSE AND WE WILL IMMEDIATELY RETURN YOUR MONEY.

**GUARANTEED
TWENTY
YEARS**

With every Burdick Sewing Machine we issue a written, binding, 20-years' guarantee, by the terms and conditions of which, if any piece or part gives out by reason of defect in material or workmanship we will replace or repair it FREE OF CHARGE.



CLOSED

No. 84H

BE SURE TO MENTION
No. 84H.

OUR
FIRST
FREIGHT
PREPAID
\$16.45
GRAND
CABINET
OFFER.

**ORDER
IMMEDIATELY**

THE BURDICK has every modern improvement, every good point of every high grade machine made, with the defects of none. Made by the best maker in America, from the best material money can buy. Grandest 5-Drawer Drop Desk Cabinet, exactly as shown in the two illustrations, made from solid quarter sawed oak, piano polish. One illustration shows the machine closed, (head dropping from sight) to be used as a center table, stand or desk, the other open with full length table and head ready for sewing. Four side drawers, one center drawer, latest 1900 model skeleton frame. One of the most massive, most complete and most expensive sewing machine cabinets made. Carved, paneled, embossed and decorated cabinet finish, finest nickel drawer pulls, rests on four casters, adjusted treadle. Best stand made.

THE BURDICK HEAD is one of the very best high arm heads made. Positive four motion feed, self-threading vibrating shuttle, automatic bobbin winder, adjustable bearings, patent tension liberator, improved loose wheel, adjustable presser foot, improved shuttle carrier, patent needle bar, patent dress guard, patent belt controller. Head is handsomely decorated and ornamented, black enameled base, handsome transfer ornamentations, beautifully nickel trimmed.

GUARANTEED THE LIGHTEST RUNNING, most durable and machine made. Complete set of attachments furnished free and our instruction book tells just how anyone can run it and do either plain or any kind of fancy sewing.

OPEN

No. 84H
BE SURE TO MENTION
No. 84H

To Points West of Rocky
Mountains, Price will be
\$19.00, Freight Prepaid.

\$16.45 FREIGHT
PAID...

THIS ILLUSTRATION shows our 5-Drawer, Drop Head, Cabinet Grand BURDICK Machine open for work. Head is raised and set in place, cover extended as a sewing machine table. No larger, handsomer, more roomy or convenient sewing machine cabinet made; no better device for the protection of a sewing machine head.

\$16.45

Freight and...
Collection Charges

PAID BY US

for the Burdick
Machine in our
**NEW GRAND
5-DRAWER
DROP HEAD
CABINET**

Far eclipses all
previous at-
tempts at Sew-
ing Machine
Values.

FIRST AND ONLY OFFER AT \$16.45. FREIGHT PREPAID

NEVER BEFORE HAVE WE MADE THE \$16.45 PRICE
NEVER BEFORE OFFERED TO PAY ALL FREIGHT
AND ALL CHARGES OF ALL KINDS.

WE HAVE SOLD OVER 100,000 BURDICKS in the regular grade Five-drawer Drop Head style. There are at least a few in every town. If you have not seen it, write us and we will give you the names of people in your neighborhood who have them. We mail free on request a book containing the names of thousands of people who have bought our machines, and give their praise to quality and testify to saving \$20.00 to \$40.00 each.

WHAT THE PEOPLE SAY ABOUT THE BURDICK.

We Have Thousands of Letters to the Same Effect.

Consider They Received a Present of \$35.00.

Sears, Roebuck & Co., Chicago, Ill. Carthage, Jasper Co., Mo.
Gentlemen: The beautiful sewing machine came in first-class condition. My wife has tested it to her entire satisfaction. She is more than pleased with it—I might say delighted, and it is certainly the biggest value for the money we ever heard of. Two ladies examined the machine yesterday, and claimed it was exactly the same grade of machine they paid \$50.00 and \$55.00 for. We consider you have made us a present of \$35.00. Please accept our many thanks.
Yours very truly, DR. AND MRS. ANDERSON.

Sears, Roebuck & Co., Chicago, Ill. Matthews, N. C.
We have received the Burdick Sewing Machine several months ago and will cheerfully say that it is all and more than it is represented to be, and have saved \$20.00 or \$25.00 by ordering from you instead of getting one here. It is as finely finished as any \$40.00 or \$50.00 machine and has already more than paid for itself. The attachments are just splendid and it is such a convenient machine, being so easy and light to run.
Very truly, MRS. M. R. MORGAN.

Sears, Roebuck & Co., Chicago, Ill. Stewart, Texas.
Dear Sirs: We have given the machine we ordered from you an honest trial and it has proved more than satisfactory. It is much better than a machine we paid \$44.00 for two years ago. I can't see how you can sell such a machine for the money. Our old machine cost us not less than \$8.00 per year to keep it in running order. This one has not cost us a cent for repairs. Not a needle has been broken.
Your old customer, NEWTON ADAMS.

Sears, Roebuck & Co., Chicago, Ill. Hontzdale, Clearfield Co., Pa.
Gentlemen: My wife insists that I write you regarding the machine bought of you, which arrived in perfect condition, and to say that she is pleased in putting it mildly. It is a perfect piece of sewing mechanism in every respect. She has tried several noted makes and the difference in them and the Burdick is the difference between a road wagon and a ball bearing bicycle. She says the Burdick is the most perfect machine she has ever seen and is noiseless, and comes near running itself. Gratefully yours, ARTHUR F. HUGHES.

Sears, Roebuck & Co., Chicago, Ill. Greenbrier, Limestone Co., Ala.
I have received my sewing machine and can truly say it is just as you represented. I am delighted with it and have saved \$15.00 or \$20.00 in getting my machine from you. I have seen a good many machines brought around through this section by different agents, and they ask from \$35.00 to \$65.00 for almost any machine that they handle, and I would not today give the Burdick I got from you for any of their \$65.00 machines. The Burdick is so simple, a 10-year old child can operate it. It is also a well finished machine in all respects.
Your friend, SALENA J. TAYLOR.

\$16.45

DELIVERED

TO ANY POINT EAST OF
ROCKY MOUNTAINS.

This illustration gives you an idea of the handsome appearance of this

**ROYAL GRAND
5-DRAWER CABINET
MACHINE**

closed, to be used as a writing desk, center table or stand.

**HEAD DROPS
COMPLETELY
FROM SIGHT,**

table folds up, and being of piano polish finished antique oak, you have really a beautiful piece of furniture.

IT COSTS NOTHING TO SEE AND EXAMINE THIS MACHINE, and compare it with those your storekeeper sells at \$40.00 to \$60.00; and then, if convinced you are saving \$20.00 to \$40.00, pay your freight agent \$16.45, which we agree to return to you at any time within three months if you become dissatisfied.

AS TO OUR RELIABILITY WE REFER YOU TO OUR OWN NEIGHBORS, to the publishers of this paper, to National City Bank and German Exchange Bank, New York; Metropolitan National Bank and Corn Exchange Bank, Chicago; or to any Express Company, business house or resident of Chicago.

ADDRESS YOUR ORDER

.... PLAINLY TO

SEARS ROEBUCK AND CO.

CHEAPEST SUPPLY HOUSE ON EARTH,

CHICAGO,
ILL.